# Jemaah Islamiah trained at MILF camp, says military

Story on PAGE A2

## Top Bali blast suspect RP-bound when nabbed

**By Norman Bordadora**

THE TOP suspect in the Bali bombings would likely have escaped to the Philippines if he had not been arrested this week, the Indonesian police general in charge of the multi-national investigation said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Made Mangku Pastika said

TOP/ A18

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LEONARDO MONTEMAYOR

HERNANI BRAGANZA

LEANDRO MENDOZA

MIKE DEFENSOR

RICHARD GORDON

JOSE LINA

PDI PHOTOS

# GMA to revamp Cabinet

## *Changes on Nov. 30 to mark 'strong republic'*

**By Tony Bergonia**
*Assistant National Editor*

**THE START of a major reshuffle of the Cabinet will mark the "relaunch" on Nov. 30 of President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign for a "strong republic," according to Malacañang insiders.**

"It's an ideologically based campaign for a strong republic," said a ranking Palace official privy to the supposed planned reshuffle. However, the official said, the President would not be able to complete the revamp in time for the relaunch because she would have very little leeway "to find other jobs for those who will be removed."

The names mentioned in the reported Cabinet shakeup were those of Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, to be moved to agriculture or transportation and communications; Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, to take Braganza's place; Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr., to be appointed campaign manager of Ms Macapagal for the 2004 presidential election; and Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, to replace Lina.

Mina Gabor is supposedly being pushed by certain quarters for her old post as tourism secretary. But it is also highly possible for the President to keep the incumbent, Richard Gordon, where he is and give Gabor "a line agency under trade," the sources said.

There was varying information on the date of the supposed reshuffle, but all of the insiders expressed certainty that it would take place.

One Malacañang official said the revamped Cabinet would be in place by

GMA/ A17

JOAN BONDOC

**SMALL COMFORT, BIG TRAFFIC JAM.** Suddenly, a thunderstorm struck yesterday afternoon, and these street urchins could only cling to each other for warmth and comfort. But they were the lucky ones. Motorists especially on Edsa from Quezon City to Ayala Avenue in Makati were stuck in a traffic gridlock that lasted till way past 8 last night. *(Story on Page A26.)*

## Bad news, not travel advisories, hurt tourism

**By Norman Bordadora**

ADVISORIES issued by foreign ministries and embassies warning their citizens against travel to certain parts of the world don't really affect a prospective tourist's likelihood of visiting a destination as much as "photos and perception" do, the World Tourism Organization said.

Dawis De Villers, WTO deputy secretary general, said the WTO found out in a survey of travelers that media coverage of terrorist attacks affects the desirability of a destination much more than travel advisories.

"If you ask travelers about advisories, they don't even know what they are," De Villers yesterday said during a news briefing at the International Conference on Terrorism and Tourism Recovery at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

"They are more affected by news ... media coverage, television, photos, stories," he said.

Still, De Villers scored Western countries for issuing sweeping travel advisories.

"Negative perceptions have been raised and strengthened by unfortunate

BAD NEWS/ A18

## Gloria won't extend Defensor term as AFP chief

**By Martin P. Marfil**

AS though to belie criticism of her supposed "revolving door" policy on Armed Forces chiefs of staff, President Macapagal-Arroyo has decided not to extend the term of the incumbent, Gen. Benjamin Defensor.

This was disclosed yesterday by a highly placed source, who said the President would most likely name Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago as Defensor's successor and 32nd AFP chief.

Santiago, head of the Philippine Army, made a name for himself when he led the anti-coup Task Force Libra during the bloody Labor Day siege of Malacañang in 2001 by forces loyal to deposed President Joseph Estrada.

He is a 1970 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and a former head of the AFP Special Operations Command based in Nueva Ecija, and is scheduled to retire in April.

"The President has already made a decision," the source said, but disclaimed knowledge when asked when the announcement would be made.

Other officials said the matter might be discussed at the command conference scheduled today in Malacañang.

Defensor, formerly chief of the Air Force, was to have retired from the service on Sept. 12. But on Sept. 10, the day he took over as AFP chief, he was given a

GLORIA/ A6

## PDI president wins Aurelio Periquet award

ALEXANDRA "Sandy" Prieto-Romualdez, president of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc., and Henry Lim Bon Liong, chair of Sterling Paper Group of Companies, are this year's Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Leadership Awardees, the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation has announced.

Romualdez is the first woman recipient of the award.

Romualdez is the Pearl Awardee and Lim the Pillar Awardee.

The annual awards, now on its fifth year, are given to outstanding men and women from the business sector who have not only distinguished themselves through outstanding business achievements, but more importantly, through their sense of public service and contributions to civic society and national development.

PDI/ A17

**ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ, PDI president/CEO: First woman awardee**

## Marines mark 'birthday' with drunken coup talk

**By Fe Zamora**
*INQ7.net*

WHEN the Marines are awake, the Army must be on red alert, even at 1 a.m.

No matter if, last Thursday night in Fort Bonifacio, the Marines were just drinking, bragging about their combat prowess and shouting "Uwwa! Uwwa!" every 20 minutes.

"Let those who want to stage a coup do it now and we will show you how the Marines will crush them," said Col. Juancho Sabban, head of the Marine training school.

"Uwwa! Uwwa!" the men at the long table shouted.

But the drinking sessions among the officers, and later at a mixed party attended by officers and about 30 senior non-commissioned officers, apparently did not sit well with the Army.

Past midnight, a Marine reported to the officers that Army intelligence operatives were in the area. A few minutes after, the officers themselves received a message that the Army had already declared a red alert.

"And we have not even taken our tanks out on a drive," one Marine officer said, wryly.

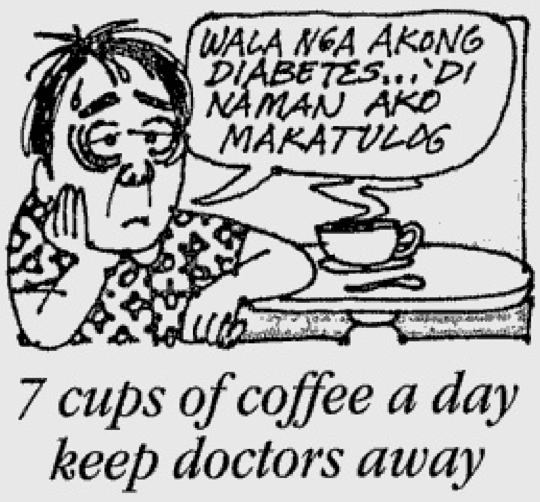
Last Thursday was the Marines' 52nd founding anniversary.

"We are drinking and we are celebrating because it is our birthday. We are all celebrating our birthday," declared Col. Cesar de la Peña that night.

"Uwwa! Uwwa!"

In the corps, the founding anniversary is celebrated as the

MARINES/ A6


WALA NGA AKONG DIABETES...`DI NAMAN AKO MAKATULOG

## *7 cups of coffee a day keep doctors away*

LONDON—Good news for coffee drinkers.

The cup that helps millions of people get started in the morning—and probably keeps them awake at night—may reduce the risk of diabetes, Dutch researchers said on Friday.

Scientists at Vrije University in Amsterdam said components in coffee seem to help the body metabolize sugar, thereby reducing the risk of diabetes, which affects 130 million people worldwide.

7 CUPS/ A18

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over extreme Northern Luzon.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/09/02

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

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# Second FRONTPAGE

# JI used MILF camp for training

**CAMP Abubakar in Central Mindanao was one of the three main territorial cells operated by the Islamic militant group Jemaah Islamiah, a confidential Armed Forces report has alleged.**

The cells cover much of Southeast Asia, from which JI links up with other local Muslim radical groups and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

JI aims to establish a pan-Islamic state across Southeast Asia and is the main suspect in the Bali bombings that left nearly 200 people dead.

The confidential report, seen by The Associated Press on Thursday, painted a picture of a well-connected, sophisticated group which uses modern technology, such as mobile phones and e-mail, to communicate and whose members have had extensive training.

The report said the three territorial cells are known as "mantiqis." Mantiqi 3, or M3, was based in Camp Abubakar, the main camp of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, before it was moved to Poso in Central Sulawesi when the Armed Forces overran Abubakar in 2000.

M3—which covers Borneo, Brunei, Sawarak, Sabah, Kalimantan and Sulawesi—was run from Poso until that site was closed down by Indonesian authorities late last year, the report said.

M2 covers all of Indonesia except Sulawesi and Kalimantan. It is based in the city of Solo, Central Java province, which is also home to the group's alleged spiritual leader, Abu Bakar Bashir.

M1, based in Malaysia, covers Malaysia, Singapore and southern Thailand, the report said. Scores of suspected members of Jemaah Islamiah have been jailed in Singapore and Malaysia. Southern Thailand, which unlike the rest of the country is predominantly Muslim, has suffered a wave of unexplained bombings in recent weeks.

Some 30 Filipinos trained in Poso, Indonesia, before the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, the report said. The camp also was allegedly used for clandestine meetings between militant groups from Malaysia and Singapore.

"It can be surmised that it is in M3 where the linkages among the MILF, the MMI, the JI and the al-Qaida converge," the report said. MMI is the Indonesian Muhajedeen Council allegedly led by Bashir, described as the "Amir," or head, of Jemaah Islamiah. Bashir has since been detained for suspected involvement in three bombings.

"It was even reported that (Osama) bin Laden planned in 2000 to move the base of his al-Qaida operations from Afghanistan to (Indonesia's) Aceh province. Two of his aides even visited the area and noted its lax security and extent of support of the Muslim population," the report added.

Jemaah Islamiah allegedly received $140,000 from al-Qaida over three years, the report said, but without providing specifics.

The report details the JI organizational structure and main personalities as well as links with other alleged radical groups in Southeast Asia.

It said aside from training in Islamic schools in Pakistan and camps in Afghanistan, the southern Philippines and Indonesia, Jemaah Islamiah cell members have been exposed to the use of "fairly sophisticated 'security tradecraft' wherein members operate by code names and code numbers."

"They rely on e-mail for communication . . . Moreover, they encrypt their diskettes and use prepaid mobile phones to avoid detection," the report added.

## US Embassy cancels Veterans Day in Manila

THE US Embassy in Manila has canceled its annual Veterans Day event honoring US and Filipino veterans of World War II due to terrorist threats to Americans in the country, the embassy's spokesperson said Friday.

Karen Kelley said the embassy decided to cancel the Nov. 11 ceremony at Manila's American cemetery to be consistent with an earlier public announcement advising Americans to avoid crowded places, including cemeteries.

But she said as far as she knew, there were no specific threats related to the event.

A notice on the embassy's Web site said: "As noted in the recent public announcement for the Philippines dated Nov. 2, 2002, the terrorist threat to Americans in the Philippines remains high."

"Among other things, the public announcement urges Americans to exercise special caution in public places, such as cemeteries and shopping malls, through the New Year holiday. Consistent with that advisory, the US Embassy has canceled the Veterans Day ceremony scheduled for the American Cemetery in Manila on Nov. 11, 2002," the notice added. "It remains prudent to assume that terrorists could target Americans and others in such places." *AP*

# Gov't deports 2 Jordanians

BUREAU of Immigration officials yesterday deported two Jordanian men suspected of having links to terrorists after failing to find enough evidence to prosecute them.

Mohammad Amin Al-Ghafari and Ahmad Abellatif Jubran were escorted by an immigration officer back to Amman, Jordan, on board a Gulf Air flight.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said in a statement the two men were deported for being undocumented aliens.

Although there were allegations that the Jordanians had ties to terrorist groups, the immigration bureau decided it could not hold them because no criminal charges were filed against them in court, she said.

The two, arrested separately, have been placed on a blacklist to prevent them from reentering the country, Domingo added.

Al-Ghafari was arrested last month and questioned in connection with an Oct. 2 bombing that killed an American soldier and three civilians in southern Zamboanga city. He refused to cooperate, and it was difficult translating the allegations into evidence that would stand up in court, immigration officials said.

Al-Ghafari, a doctor of economics who has lived in the Philippines for 18 years, denied any wrongdoing.

The immigration bureau said Jubran was an illegal entrant because he failed to present his passport or any other travel document. He was arrested in Manila on May 16 after US authorities told the Philippines that he was a suspected would-be suicide bomber.

Government authorities have resorted to charging suspected foreign terrorists with immigration violations to hold them in the absence of pending anti-terrorism legislation. *AP*

# BI 'releases' controversial Spanish lawyer

By B.S. Rivera

THE BUREAU of Immigration yesterday allowed the "temporary release" of controversial Spanish retiree Ramon Collado over the weekend for medical purposes.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo approved the request of Collado's lawyer to allow the retiree to undergo medical examination outside the immigration jail in Bicutan, Taguig, where Collado has been detained for almost a month now.

Collado has been accusing the new bank acquired by the President's publicist, Dante Ang, of diverting or withdrawing around P16 million of the Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association's (Prama) peso and dollar deposits in BankWise.

Collado is the president of Prama.

The BI arrested Collado on Oct. 14 after the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA) cancelled his special residence retirees visa and reported he had been working without permit as Prama president. Collado had accused the PLRA of bleeding the Prama of some P60 million in unreturned retirees membership dues and commission.

Domingo said Collado should be "under guard" during his temporary break outside jail. He will be escorted from the detention center to the hospital and back, said Immigration prosecutor Antonio Carolino, who is handling the case.

Carolino said it was "normal" for the BI to extend a medical pass to ailing detainees, especially if the BI could not shoulder the cost of medication and treatment of the detainees.

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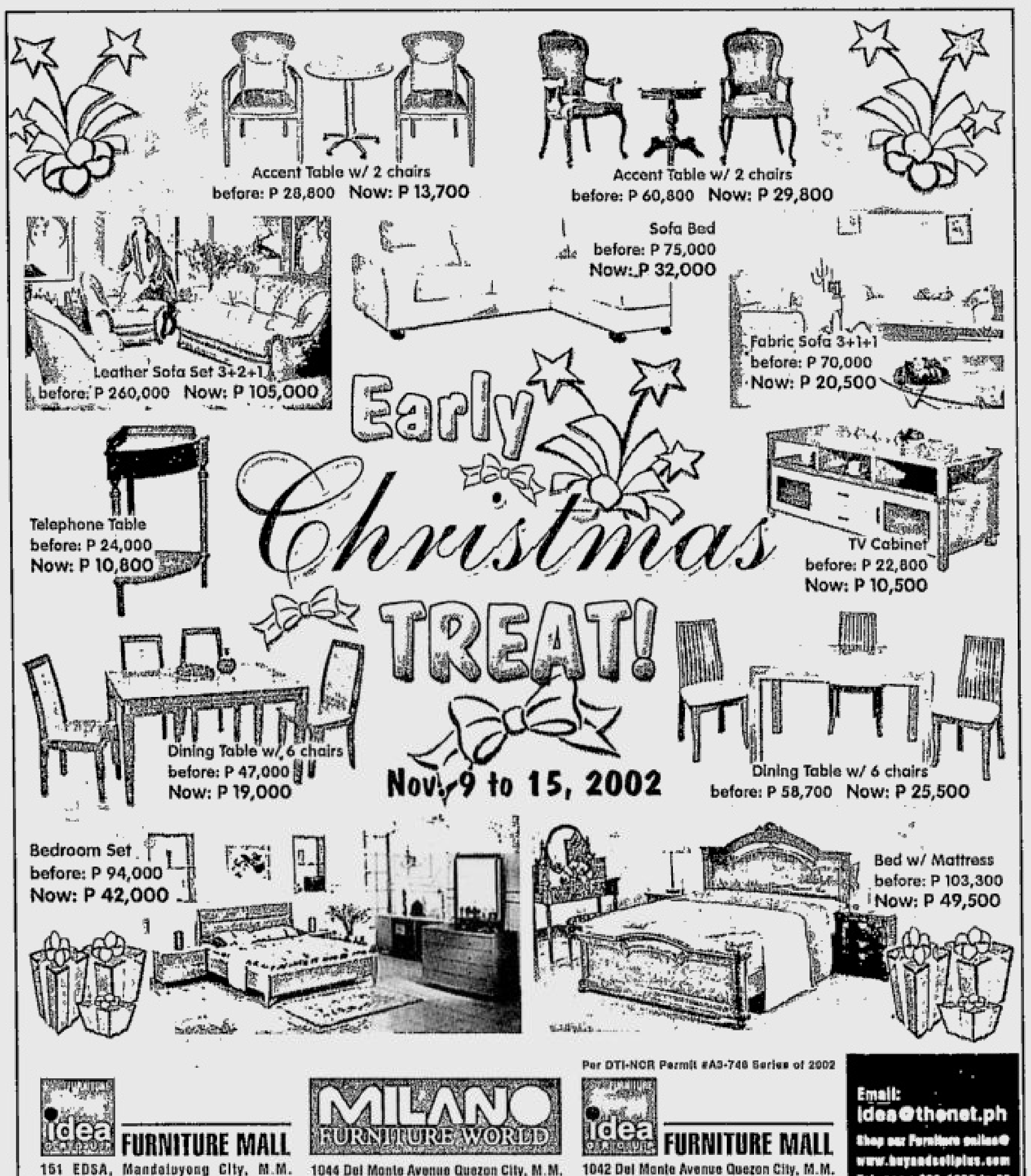

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# Hot lumber in 6 container vans seized

ALVAREZ: Enough hot lumber to build 150 classrooms. ERIK ARAZAS

**By Gerald G. Lacuarta**

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has seized illegally cut lumber concealed in six 20x40-foot container vans at the North Harbor in Manila.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the shipment was declared to contain 91,878 board feet of mahogany lumber worth P2.3 million but he said the volume and amount could easily go up as most shipments are misdeclared.

Alvarez said the six vans contained enough lumber to build 150 classrooms. The DENR in the past had donated the seized lumber to local governments to build classrooms.

The shipment, which arrived Nov. 7 on board WG&A's MV Superferry 9 from Polloc Port in Parang, Maguindanao, was consigned to the MV Lumber in Baliwag, Bulacan.

The use of commercial shipping lines in this new modus operandi was discovered weeks ago when eight container vans, shipped by Suraida Mini-sawmill and Lumber also on board a WG&A Superferry, with P2.5 million illegal lumber, were tracked to Soo Chiong Trading Corp. and Bayview Marketing in Valenzuela City, and with Goodwill Lumber in Baliwag, Bulacan.

Alvarez believed that the latest apprehension has broken the back of a well-organized nationwide system of the "lucrative illegal timber market" that uses commercial land and sea distribution lanes.

"We have tracked down their modus operandi from port to port in Mindanao to Manila and the hot logs mafia within the processing zones and hardware stores in Valenzuela City and the greater Manila area," Alvarez said.

Alvarez said there appeared to be a collusion among illegal loggers, government personnel and big wood processing plants, since the illegal shipments were covered by recycled logging documents.

"Importers are reportedly paying document handlers at least P0.50 per board foot of lumber in exchange for documents," Alvarez said.

The DENR suspects that the lumber came from illegal sources and the documentation covering the shipment may have been tampered or even faked.

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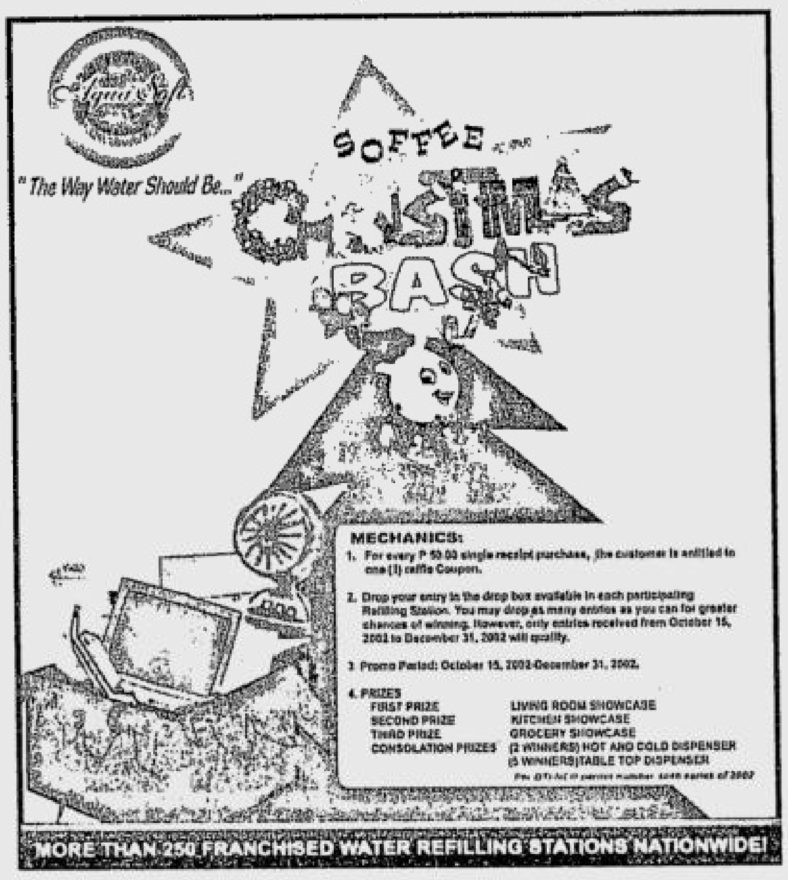

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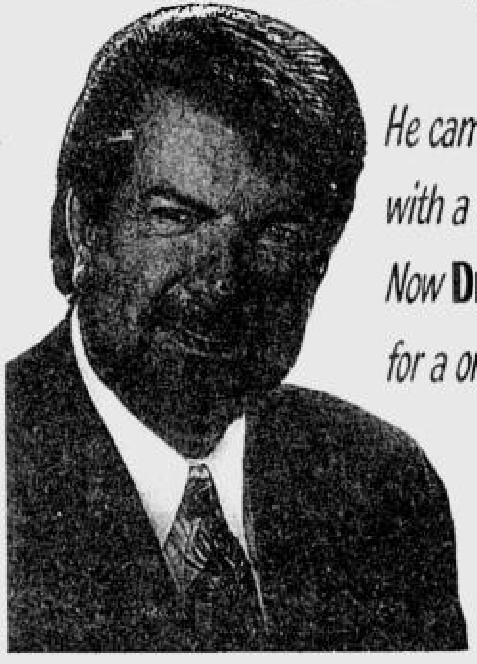

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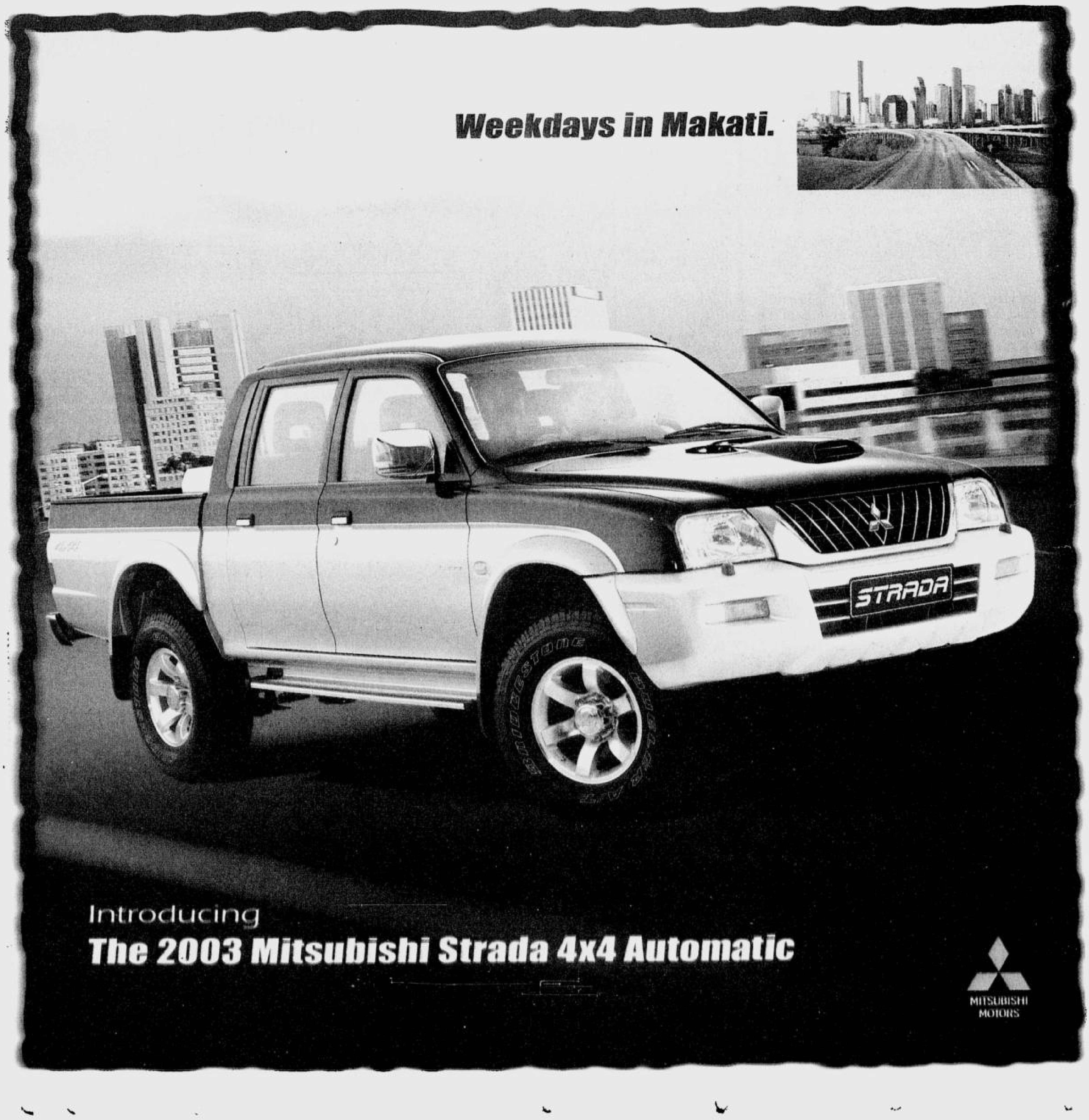

# *"We Shall Overcome"*

The National Day of Prayer and Fasting
November 9, 2002, Saturday, 3-4 p.m.

*Almighty God, we exult You in Your greatness. May you grace us with Your presence as we come together as one nation with one heart and one mind.*

*Almighty God, we live in a world torn by strife, poverty, terror and deceit where the essence of our humanity is dulled. And so we pray, remind us of the reason for our being and that we were all created in Your image and likeness.*

*Remind us of our strength as the hand-made of Your love so we could selflessly share our character, talents and resources in the spirit of love, courage, power and justice that You bestowed on us. So that w hen we are faced with poverty, we may rise above the situation and realize self-reliance. When we are weakened, we can find strength. When we see greed and corruption, we stand up with conscientiousness and honesty. When we are shackled by oppression, we fight for freedom. When we find ourselves in the midst of struggle, we pursue with perseverance. When we find suffering, we offer compassion and action. When we are divided by different beliefs, we stand united in tolerance and understanding.*

*So today, dear God, open our eyes to the truth of love, peace, hope and joy amidst adversity. Help us to believe in Your goodness and look straight in the eyes of our brothers and sisters and see that same goodness in them. Help us build our country NOT in the illusion of material wealth, aggression, influence and coercion. Help us to see that You alone, God, are the firm foundation of our nation. And despite differences in color and creed, we can be one in praise, prayer and purpose through Your spirit of love. For with You, and You alone, shall we overcome. Amen.*

* * *

This Saturday. November 9 at 3p.m., the Filipino nation will pause to reflect and express its unity and solidarity through prayer. We will offer an hour of our time to seek strength from God and divine guidance for the challenges that face us as a country. We enjoin everyone to gather and pray in these sites;

**Prayer Sites :**

- Boni Ave. cor Sn. Joaquin St., Mandaluyong City
  (Theme: The Strong republic worships God and cares for Man)
  - *prayer led by **President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo***
- Dr. Torres Memorial Hospital, Lamitan, Basilan, ARMM
  (Theme: The Strong Republic protects and develops the nation)
  - *prayer led by **Vice-President Teofisto Guingona***
- Capitol Building, Cebu
  (Theme: The Strong Republic promotes prosperity and justice)
  - *prayer led by **Chief Justice Hilario Davide***
- Igorot Park, Baguio City
  (Theme: The Strong Republic enriches our land and our culture)
  - *prayer led by **House Speaker Jose de Venecia***
- Sea Front, Iloilo City
  (Theme: The Strong Republic is founded on upright living and a moral society)
  - *prayer led by **Senate President Franklin Drilon***
- Camp Iranon formerly Camp Abubakar
  (Theme: The Strong Republic brings peace, unity and understanding to all)
  - *prayer led by **Gov. Parouk Hussin***

*These will be replicated in the various communities and churches all over the country. We encourage everyone to offer a prayer with their families wherever they are.*

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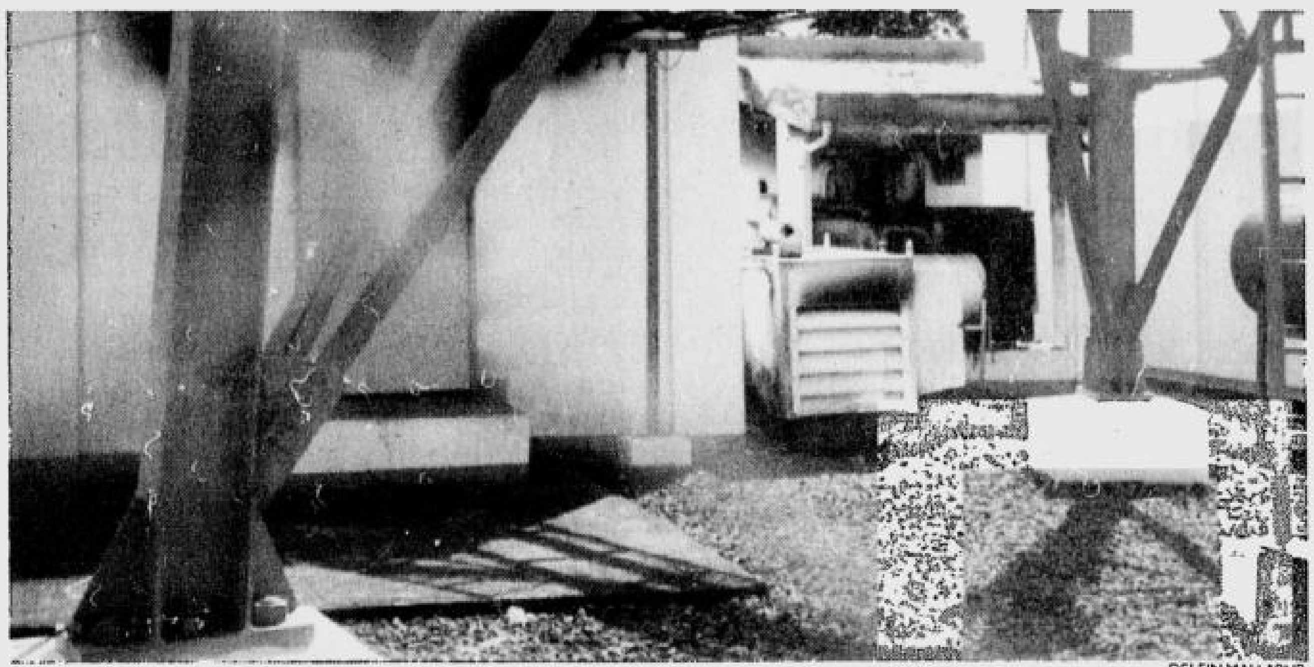

DELFIN MALLARI JR.

GLOBE relay station in Candelaria, Quezon, the morning after the attack by suspected communist rebels.

# Reds torch Globe relay station in Quezon; 2 rebs, 1 soldier killed

**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

LUCENA CITY—Four suspected communist rebels on motorcycles set on fire the control room and generator set of Globe Telecommunications relay station in Candelaria, Quezon, late Thursday night, according to Col. Ferdinand Bocobo, 201st Infantry Brigade commander.

The attack took place six hours after two suspected New People's Army rebels and a government soldier were killed in a clash in Barangay Limbon, Sariaya, Quezon.

The burning of the Globe telecommunications relay station occurred at around 10:30 p.m.

Manolo Montefar, the lone guard at the Globe relay station compound located at Barangay Masin, some 50 meters from the Maharlika Highway, was still in shock when found by the responding villagers.

"We heard a booming sound coming from the direction of the relay station," village councilor Faustino Baon, told the INQUIRER.

Some of the villagers said they saw one of the attackers being carried away by his companion, who appeared to have been injured by the blast.

Security guards from Visman Security Agency and Allied Services prevented newsmen from entering the compound. But villagers said the equipment inside the control room were severely burned and destroyed.

The prompt arrival of the Candelaria firefighters prevented the blaze from spreading.

Bocobo, citing intelligence reports, said the rebels were also planning to attack the Sariaya police station and the Nation Gas depot along Tayabas Bay.

"They were supposed to strike today or tomorrow. But the plan was foiled by intelligence information provided by the civilians in the area," he told newsmen.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, did not confirm or deny that the armed men were NPA members when contacted by the INQUIRER by phone.

Rosal, however, laughed at the report that the NPA guerrillas were about to attack the Sariaya police station and the gas depot.

"The supposed plan of attacking the police station and the gas depot were all just drawings and figments of the wild imagination of the much vaunted military intelligence," Rosal said.

He, however, declined to make further comments because he said he had yet to receive a report on the incident.

Government forces recovered several high-powered firearms, communist documents and personal belongings.

The casualty on the government side was identified as one Col. Warren Dunzo. The NPA victims were still unidentified as of press time.

The Globe relay station was the third attacked by the NPA in Quezon this year.

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(Saturday & Sunday Classes Only)
November 23, 2002 to April 13, 2003

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| CIVIL LAW | • Judge Ed Vincent Albano<br>• Dean Eduardo Abella<br>• Dean Michael Moralde<br>• Dean Ernesto Pineda<br>• Prof. Rolando A.P. Reyes |
| MERCANTILE LAW | • Judge Japar Dimaampao<br>• Dean Eduardo Abella<br>• Prof. Joe-Santos Bisquera |
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# 3 Davao mayors backing Reds, says military

**By Ferdinand O. Zuasola**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CATEEL, Davao Oriental—The Army believes at least three mayors here are supporting New People's Army rebels, but two mayors interviewed here claimed they had to work out a modus vivendi with the NPA or face reprisals.

Maj. Alexis Gopico, outgoing commanding officer of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, told the INQUIRER the Army had received reports saying an unspecified number of other town officials and barangay executives were also extending support to the insurgents.

Gopico said the support consisted of giving either food, money, firearms or information to the NPA. He declined to name the officials, saying the Army was gathering more evidence against them.

The help given the rebels by local executives had made counter-insurgency efforts more difficult.

Gopico suggested that local government officials' assistance to the rebels might lead to an attack in the province similar to that which hit Maco, Compostela Valley in September.

In that incident, the rebels under the NPA's Merardo Arce Command used the mayor to gain access to a police station in Maco town. The rebels managed to seize at least 35 pieces of assorted firearms from the police armory.

But a town mayor who asked not to be identified disputed Gopico's assertion local officials were willingly collaborating with rebels, saying officials in remote places were placed in a quandary.

He said officials were forced to become "cordial and accommodating" to the rebels for fear of being killed.

"They (military) should also understand our situation. Frankly, we are afraid to show support to the military for fear of being killed by these heavily armed rebels. The food assistance that we give to the rebels does not mean we support them. (We fear that) if we don't give, we will be killed," he said.

Another mayor said he did not have a problem about being suspected of helping the rebels.

"We simply have no choice. The military will not always stay in our town, the rebels will. If we don't give in to the rebels' demands, can the military and the police assure our safety?" he asked.

# PRC defers board exams for aeronautical engineers

THE PROFESSIONAL Regulation Commission has postponed the licensure examination for Aeronautical Engineers scheduled to be given in Manila on Nov. 27, 28 and 29.

The tests were deferred pending the appointment of the nominee to the Board of Aeronautical Engineering earlier submitted to the Office of the President, according to a statement from PRC chair Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe.

The new examination schedule will be announced as soon as a new member of the Board is appointed by the Office of the President.

# Caltex, Shell raise LPG prices

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

PILIPINAS Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex (Philippines) Inc. hiked the prices of their liquified petroleum products by P1.20 per kilogram effective midnight Friday.

This is the fourth round of price increase for LPG this year.

Shell's 11-kg cylinder of Shellane would now cost between P287 and P292.

Officials of the two oil companies said the price adjustment was brought about by an increase of $32 per metric ton in LPG contract prices this month.

"This is on top of the $70-per-metric-ton increase between August and October and costs are still on the uptrend," Caltex officials added.

Petron Corp. officials have yet to decide whether to raise their LPG prices, too.

Caltex said that since early this year, local LPG prices have not been following the same trend of increase as regional contract prices.

"Since March, contract prices have risen by about P7 per kg while local prices have only gone up by about P3 per kg," Caltex said.

The oil giant said it would more accurately reflect market conditions on prices by adjusting these in smaller amounts, as often as necessary, with the frequency dictated by changes in conditions of the market and their competition.

"This will help cushion our customers from the impact of sudden big swings in prices," Caltex said.

LPG prices last increased on Oct. 10 at P1.25 per kilo.

# Erap lawyers want 2nd envelope to grill Kissa

**By Gerald G. Lacuarta**

THE ENVELOPE, please.

This is the envelope that marked the beginning of the end of President Joseph Estrada.

Yesterday, lawyers for the deposed President asked the Sandiganbayan to require the Senate legal office to provide the court with the contents of the so-called "second envelope" on Monday.

On that day, Equitable-PCI Bank officer Clarissa Ocampo takes the witness stand in the continuation of the plunder trial of Estrada and his co-accused, son Jinggoy.

The second envelope contains records of the "Jose Velarde" account at Equitable-PCI bank allegedly belonging to the former President.The second envelope was submitted to the Senate impeachment court on Dec. 12, 2000, but its contents were not divulged as 11 pro-Estrada senators voted against its opening.

At the aborted impeachment trial, Ocampo, the bank's trust officer, testified that she saw Estrada sign bank documents using the Velarde name on Feb. 4, 2000 in Malacañang.

Noel Malaya, counsel de officio for the Estradas asked the Sandiganbayan Special Division to issue a subpoena duces tecum to the Senate legal counsel so the "second envelope" may be brought to court on Nov. 11 and for the next hearing on Nov. 13.

"(The records) shall be needed during the cross-exam of witness Clarissa Ocampo," Malaya told the anti-graft court.

On Jan. 19, 2001, Estrada attempted to appease the growing number of protesters assembled at the Edsa Shrine by ordering the second envelope opened. But by then, it was too late.

On the same day, the military and the police announced their withdrawal of support from Estrada.

Documents from the second envelope showed that the Velarde account consisted of a "mother account," a current account, and a trust account. It was opened on Aug. 26, 1999 with the Equitable Juan Luna branch in Manila with an initial deposit of P1. The next day, P81 million was deposited into the account.

Bank records showed that Estrada's friend, businessman Jaime Dichaves deposited checks totaling P210 million into the account. The checks were drawn from his account with the Fareast Bank Cubao-Araneta Branch in Quezon City. He deposited a P20-million check on Sept. 8, 1999 and another P189.7-million check on Nov. 8, 1999.

Later, now congressman Mark Jimenez deposited a total of P180 million while presidential friend Dante Tan deposited P300 million.

The defense insists the account belonged to Dichaves, who had also earlier claimed its ownership.

Latest bank records provided by the Equitable-PCI Bank to the Sandiganbayan showed that the Velarde account has a balance of a little more than P2,000, from a high of reportedly around P500 million just before the impeachment trial.

The Velarde account was closed on Nov. 13, 2000 on the same day that the House of Representatives impeached Estrada.

# Today is Nat'l Day of Prayer

**By Carlito Pablo**

WE shall overcome.

This is the theme of today's National Day of Prayer and Fasting to be led by President Macapagal-Arroyo in the face of problems distressing the nation like threats of terrorism, revived coup rumors and the budget deficit.

In an official statement, President Macapagal will "rally the nation to overcome challenges and adversities" but did not specify what are these problems.

"We Shall Overcome" is the title of civil rights and Church song, the Palace also said.

The second Saturday of November is reserved as the National Day of Prayer and Fasting under Proclamation No. 47.

The Palace statement said that instead of the traditional mammoth rally at the Luneta Park, this year's national day of prayer will be held simultaneously in six locations.

Ms Macapagal will be at Boni Avenue corner San Joaquin Street, Barangay Plain View, Mandaluyong City. The program will be held from 3-4 p.m. and broadcast live.

Joining the President are Mandaluyong Mayor Ben-Hur Abalos, Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales II and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin. They will pray for "National Renewal, the Poor, Penance and Devotion."

Ms Macapagal will cap the prayer rally by leading the nation in the "National Prayer for Peace, Progress."

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. will be at the Dr. Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, to pray for "Protection Against Violence and Terror and the Development of Mindanao."

Senate President Franklin Drilon will be in Sea Front, Iloilo City, to pray for "Moral Renewal and for Families and the Youth."

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. will in Igorot Park, Baguio City, to pray for "Environmental Protection and the Preservation of Cultural Traditions."

Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide will be in the provincial capitol of Cebu City to pray for "Justice, Good Governance and for Livelihood and Sharing of Economic Gains."

Governor Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao will pray for "Peace, Unity and Global Understanding" at Camp Duma Sinsuat, formerly the Camp Abubakar of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

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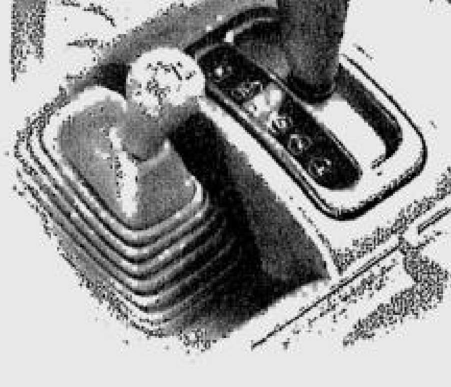

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# Gloria won't extend Defensor term as AFP chief

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From page A1

69-day extension.

His appointment to the top post was opposed by members of the military, mostly from the Army, who pointed out that the AFP was involved in a ground—not air—war.

The President's "revolving door" policy is being cited as a factor in the supposed revived attempt to mount a coup against her administration.

Talk about the supposed impending coup continued to persist even as the military paraded a number of sergeant majors denying that recruitment from the ranks had started.

Defensor issued a statement warning soldiers that they would be arrested and tried if caught spreading coup rumors:

"I have already given the orders. Even those who are caught (sending text messages) about coup rumors will be dealt with. They may text a joke but not about a coup, because it's not funny.

"Write it down. If you are in active service and I catch you, I will whack you. You better think many times before you do something like that. Better still, you better ask people who served under me (about) what I do to idiots who try to destabilize or have nothing to do."

Asked how the military could trace senders of text messages, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, AFP public information chief, said they had the means to do it.

The AFP issued a statement saying rumors continued to spread that money was being distributed in camps to get soldiers to join the destabilization plot. It also said text messaging had started "to go into overdrive," with the military still in the dark on who were responsible.

Earlier, former AFP chief Lisandro Abadia said he had been receiving text messages from soldiers seeking "guidance" on irregularities in the military and asking him to lead a coup.

## No recruitment

Late yesterday afternoon, the AFP produced its sergeant majors from the various branches in a press conference.

As one, all denied that soldiers were being recruited for a coup plot.

Master Chief Petty Officer Benjamin Rosario, the head of the group, said Abadia's claims were baseless.

He said the grumbling about soldiers' pay had already been addressed, and that certain soldiers would be receiving an increase of at least P2,200.

It was the third time this year that the sergeant majors held a press conference denying recruitment for a coup plot.

Also in Camp Aguinaldo, reporters were given copies of an unsigned letter saying Abadia's statements should not be disregarded because some soldiers might join the supposed coup because of their commander—a reference to Navy Capt. Tirso Danga.

But AFP spokesperson Eduardo Purificacion dismissed this, saying that Danga was a good commander and that some people might just be riding on the issue.

Yet other voices were added to the fray.

Former Constabulary chief Ramon Montano called for the resignation of National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes for supposedly giving the President wrong intelligence information.

Sought for comment, Golez hit back at Montano.

"Idle minds, idle thoughts," Golez said in a text message. "This is correct in (Montano's) case. He has not recovered from the trauma of his experience (the December 1989 coup attempt against the Aquino administration). When he woke up, his Camp Crame was surrounded by rebel soldiers and his HQ attacked by Tora-Tora planes.

"He was caught with his pants down, the poor guy. That was a massive case of intelligence failure but he did not resign..."

## No surprise

Linda Montayre of the People's Consultative Assembly, an archcritic of the President, said key players in the supposed coup had temporarily shelved it because of the disclosure of the plot to the public.

"We have been able to temporarily ward off any real intent to launch a coup," Montayre said, adding that the PCA was among the groups that first brought the matter to the press.

"The key players have lost the element of surprise. The plan is in the open and people behind it are making denials left and right," she said.

Interviewed by phone following her press briefing with the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa, Montayre stood by her earlier claim that there had been "overtures" from people behind the plot to unseat Ms Macapagal.

"The conditions conducive to a coup remains, and it can happen anytime. We better watch out for military-backed efforts to topple the government," she said.

Montayre clarified that the PCA was against any military-led coup because it would "result in martial rule." But she said the PCA would fully support a civilian-led popular revolt, especially with the backing of the military.

Montayre said there was a growing clamor for a peaceful revolution from an increasing number of Filipinos who could no longer endure the administration's supposed lack of priority, graft and corruption, and even immorality.

"We are all ready to move to something else ... for a change in the system of government," she said, adding that the PCA was batting for the parliamentary system.

A "transition government" will be created to oversee the shift, she said.

Asked who would compose this government, she said: "When the time comes, the people's leaders will emerge."

## No more fighting

Senators called on Reyes and Abadia to stop fighting in public.

"If (they) have something to discuss about destabilization plots and unrest from the ranks of the military, they should do it quietly," Sen. Edgardo Angara said.

According to Angara, talk of deepening military unrest and a coup plot was rooted in the perceived weaknesses of the administration.

"That (the President's) ex-generals openly talk about coups and destabilization plots as if these were the most normal things to talk about fuels the feeling of uneasiness and adds to the national tension," he said.

He also said a coup attempt could only thrive in a weak political and economic environment.

Sen. Joker Arroyo chided the two former AFP chiefs of staff, as well as other leaders of the military and defense establishment.

"It is strange that the talk comes from the military," he said at a press briefing. "The military should not be talking about a coup because it is the one that is supposed to suppress it."

Arroyo said Abadia and Reyes were doing a disservice to the people for feuding publicly. "Their job is to quash the Muslim insurgency and communist insurgency problems. Imagine, they're talking about coups?" he said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, another former AFP chief of staff, said the soldiers were getting tired of coup rumors "fanned by people involved in a contest for positions."

Biazon urged the President to crack the whip on those responsible: "The rumors are coming from her allies. Chop the heads of these people."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former chief of the Philippine National Police, also attributed the rumors to the President's allies who, he said, were "scared of her defeat" in the 2004 elections.

"This certainty of upcoming defeat may be driving some officials of the administration to come up with such a plot to oust the President just so they can install a new puppet leader and perpetuate their stay in juicy government positions," Lacson said. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Cynthia D. Balana***

# Marines mark 'birthday' with drunken coup talk

From page A1

"birthday" of every Marine. This year's "birthday," however, came amid rumors of yet another coup attempt.

Sabban and De la Peña were among the leaders of the 1989 coup that nearly toppled the Aquino administration. The other night, however, both gave assurances that "they will never take part in a coup again."

But Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes told Inq7.net that "there is no coup threat." He also dismissed reports that he had summoned several military officers—including several from the Marines who talked with reporters until 2 a.m.—for a "loyalty check" yesterday morning.

"This thing is being blown out of proportion," he said.

## Guest of honor

The guest of honor at the Marines' "birthday," Reyes came late to the celebration, as his aides needed to check out a report that he would be "ambushed" by a Marine team.

But the team that was supposed to "carry out the mission" had left for Zamboanga City early Thursday aboard a C-130. The report had all the Marines laughing.

"There is no way that the team can return to Manila because they have no money for a commercial plane!" said an officer. "Ugh! Ugh!" the men shouted.

Even Malacañang was burning the lines to the Marines. Assistant Secretary for Special Concerns Abraham Purruganan was also calling his former colleagues in the military to inquire about the "situation" in the Marines.

Presidential Security Group (PSG) chief Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon attended the celebration, and everyone thought he was there as advance party for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Last year, Ms Macapagal was the Marines' special guest. She stayed late and even danced with the generals. Rumors of a coup were also floating in Metro Manila at that time.

A press briefing with Reyes and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Army chief Lt. Gen. Dionesio Santiago, Navy chief Adm. Victorino Hingco, to be held immediately after the "birthday party," was canceled at the last minute. Ms Macapagal would make an announcement in Malacañang instead, the reporters were told.

"Some sectors are scared because we are good fighters. We can't help it, we really are good," Sabban said. "*Mayabang kami, eh wala kaming magagawa. Ganoon na kami* (We're proud, but what can we do? We're really like that.)"

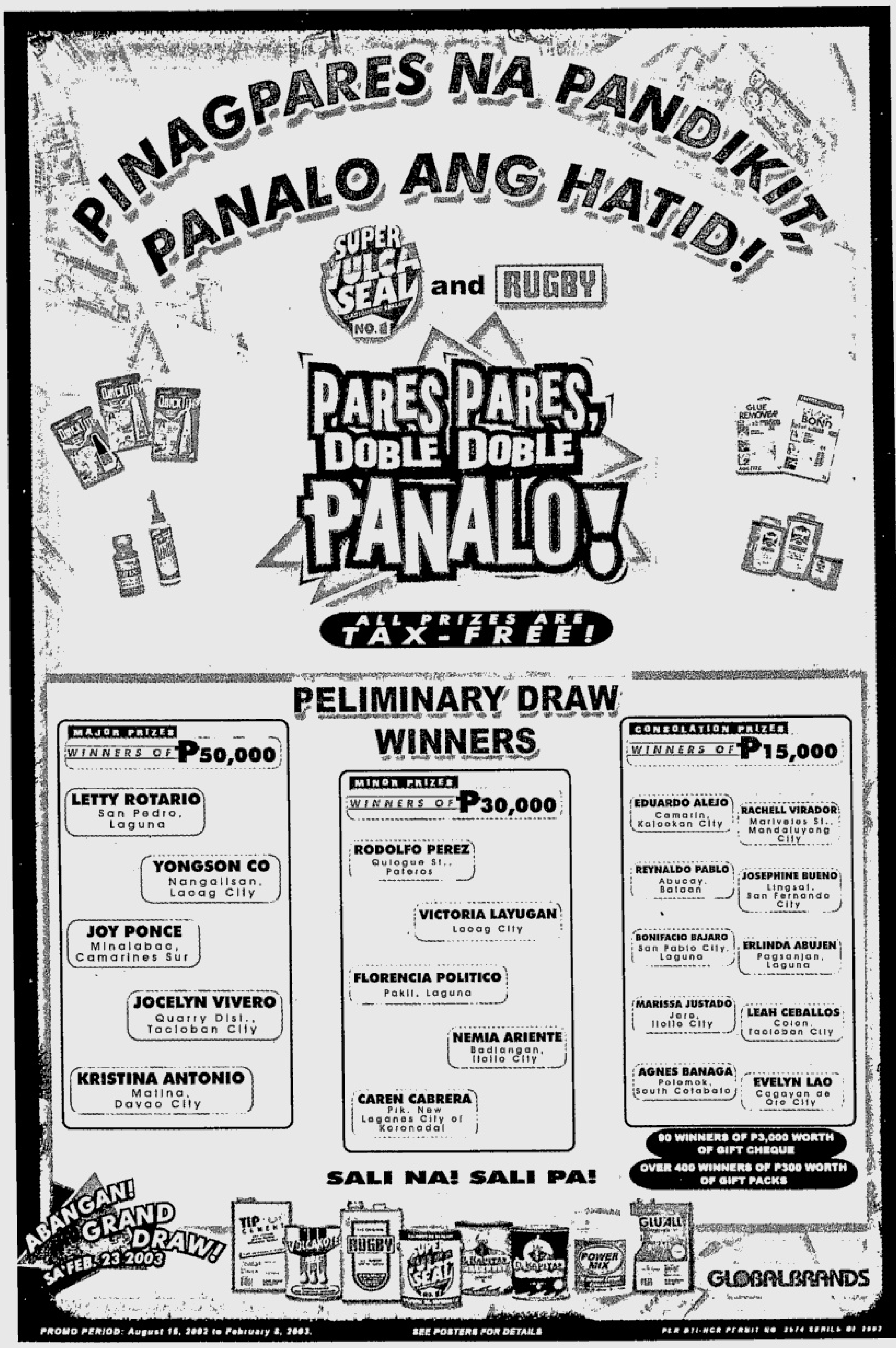
"Uwwa! uwwa!"

"We are not so shallow as to stage a coup just because our salaries are delayed. Give us the benefit of the doubt," De la Peña said.

Coup rumors were the joke of the night.

"The Marines will join the coup because the Army got a P500 salary increase, while we only got half a thousand!"

"Uwwa! uwwa!"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# *Labor group not seeking wage increase*

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

THE LABOR Solidarity Movement, representing 80 percent of labor unions in the country, yesterday said it would postpone filing a petition for wage increase "until there are substantial improvements in the economy."

The LSM said economic conditions were "not conducive" to wage negotiations, which could even jeopardize the tenure of many workers.

Instead, the LSM is seeking an assurance from authorities there would be no more retrenchments and that fares, social security contributions and water and power rates remain unchanged throughout next year.

"We know we're sticking out our necks in making this decision, but we need to balance the need for a wage increase and the need for jobs," said Vladimir Tupaz, chair of the Trade Unions of the Philippines and Allied Services (Tupas), one of the huge labor groups under the LSM umbrella.

The LSM is composed of the Tupas, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Federation of Free Workers and the Alliance of Free Workers.

The LSM petitioned for a wage increase in Metro Manila last year, which resulted in adding P30 to wage earners' emergency cost of living allowance.

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## P804-B BUDGET FOR 2003

# Joker to Camacho: 'Show us the money'

**By Rocky Nazareno**

"Show us the money."

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday hurled this challenge to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho on the question of where to get the funding for the proposed P804.2-billion national budget for 2003.

Arroyo said there would be no point for Congress to discuss the proposed national budget for next year unless it is assured that the government will be able to fund it or manage the ballooning budget deficit.

### Only allocation

In a press conference, Arroyo said Congress would not be able to act on the appropriations measure "until Camacho is able to fix or at least give us in plain and simple terms how we will manage the deficit."

"There's no point in proceeding with the discussions on the budget," Arroyo said.

The country is reeling from a budget deficit which is projected to hit P200 billion by yearend and this has left the maverick administration senator worried that no funding would be available for the P804.2-billion national budget.

Arroyo noted that if Congress proceeds with the hearings on the 2003 budget, "it would be nothing but an allocation, an apportion of what we will spend but not of what we would earn."

"The budget is both sources of funding and expenditures. It's not only the expenditures side, but also the source of funding and Camacho has not been able to tell us what will be the funding sources," Arroyo said.

Technical working group meetings on the respective budgets of government agencies have been going on for the last month even as Congress went on a two-week break.

### Sessions resume

Congress resumes sessions on Monday and the national budget will be on top of the things-to-do list of legislators.

"A budget is always justified. But before you can present the budget, you must first say where you are going to get the money," Arroyo said.

Arroyo underscored that the national budget "is composed of two books—one is for funding and the other is for expenditures."

"Those two should always go together. But the book on funding will be short of P200 billion, so what will we do?" said Arroyo.

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## Checking Bush

**EDITORIAL**

LAST Tuesday's mid-term American elections set a historical landmark. For the first time since 1934, a sitting administration won control of both Houses of Congress, standing on its head the tradition that the administration loses seats in mid-term polls.

The results clearly strengthened President George W. Bush's hand in dealing with Congress to pursue his economic and foreign policy agenda. The elections gave Bush the mandate that he was denied in the 2000 presidential elections which he won even though his Democratic opponent, then Vice President Al Gore, polled a higher popular vote.

The mid-term elections transformed Bush from an "accidental" president, thanks to a Supreme Court decision which awarded him disputed votes in Florida.

The results were by no means a landslide for the Republicans. While the elections handed them full control of Congress, the margins were slender. The Republicans regained control of the Senate with the shift of merely two seats and improved their majority in the House with four new seats. The results have certainly strengthened the hand and confidence of Bush in pushing his tough line on Iraq, especially in the United Nations Security Council, where a vote is due this weekend on a US-sponsored resolution seeking compliance by Iraq with the terms of inspection of its suspected facilities and arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

The danger is even more imminent that Bush would read too much meaning in the results, such as an endorsement of his tough war-like posture against Iraq. Some American analysts have concluded the election mandate has made war with Iraq inevitable.

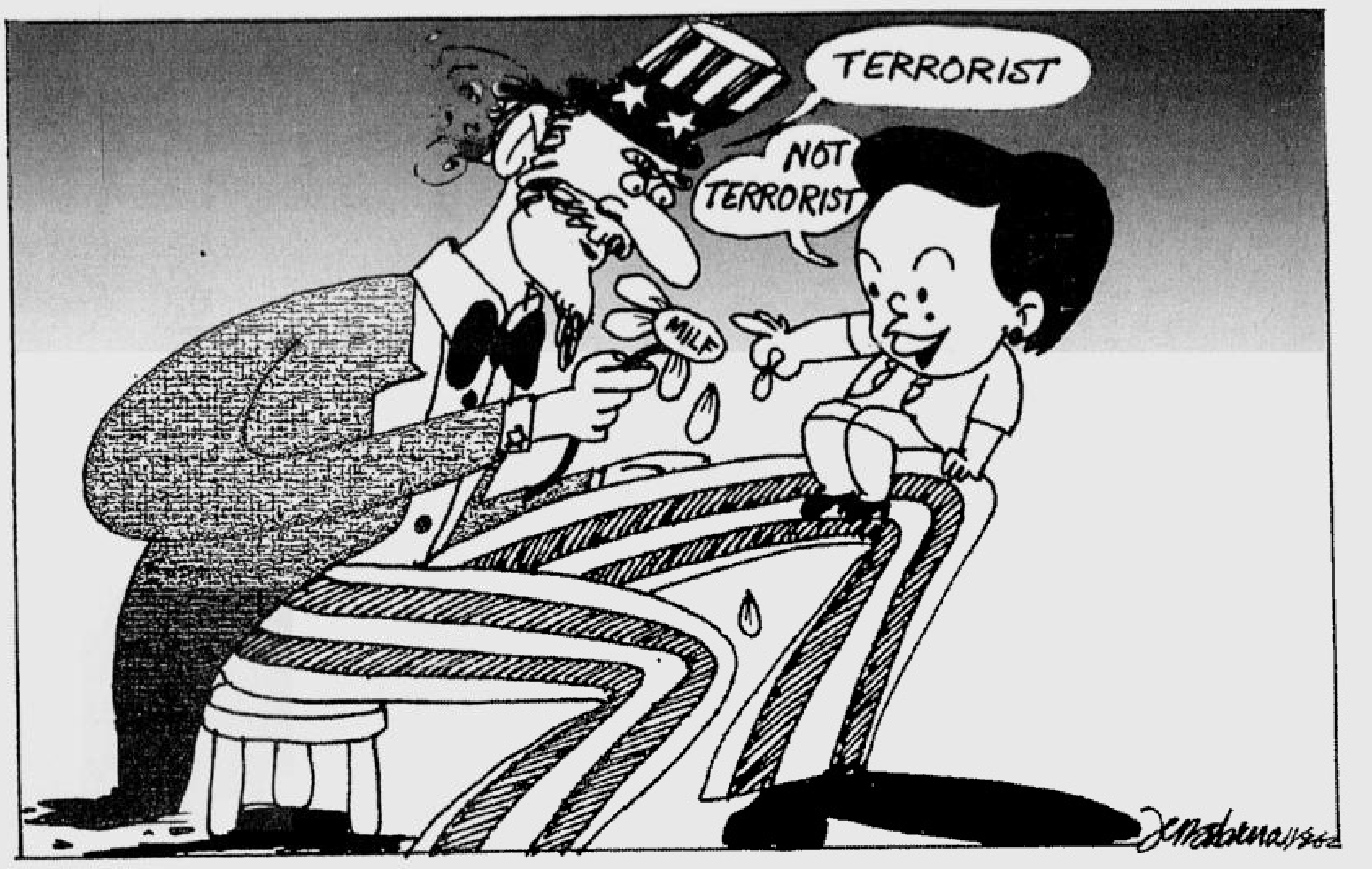
The elections were held under extraordinary circumstances that contributed to overturning US mid-term electoral precedents. The United States was experiencing a high war fever, aggravated by the theme that it was facing security threats from terrorists after the Sept. 11 attacks in the American mainland. The fears of terrorist attacks were fueled by Bush who reduced the fight against terrorism to the proposition that "those who are not with us are against us." This reductionism played on the patriotism card which enabled Bush to win, before the election, congressional approval of a resolution giving him a blank check to attack Iraq, with or without a UN mandate. Bush should be cautioned, however, that on the eve of the elections, public opinion surveys showed that the majority of American people supported his tough line only if military action is carried out under the UN mandate.

To be sure, the results were a strong expression of American support for the president but they also represented a mixture of domestic US issues. The Democrats were not only put on the defensive by the Iraq issue; they also failed to capitalize on the deterioration of the economy, rising unemployment and the financial scandals in the accounting sector.

Perhaps, the circumstances did not permit the Democrats to highlight these issues. Their concerns were focused more on the security threat, making them overlook the less than brilliant economic performance of the Bush administration which contrasted with the long spell of economic prosperity under the Clinton administration. In an emergency atmosphere, electors tend to rally behind a government taking a tough posture, regardless of its poor economic management record.

If Bush was hawkish before the mid-term elections when his electoral mandate rested on a knife's edge, he should be expected to be more combative and confident in taking a unilateral approach to foreign policy, much to the discomfiture of some of America's European allies. With the Democrats demoralized, leaderless and in disarray, they are not in a position to leash the war-like tendencies of the Bush administration in Congress.

The responsibility to check Bush's military adventurism and unilateral impulses now rests on external forces—such as France, Germany, Russia and China—which are working to temper inside the UN Bush's lust for war, boosted by his electoral gains.



## Suppressing the Lacson report

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

THERE was heartening news last Wednesday that Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of one of the three Senate committees that investigated Sen. Panfilo Lacson on charges of illegal drug activities and money laundering, was prepared to defend their joint report and recommendation on the floor of the Senate.

The three committees are the blue ribbon committee headed by Sen. Joker Arroyo, the committee on national security and defense under Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Sen. Barbers' committee on public order and illegal drugs. Senators Arroyo and Magsaysay are also ready to sponsor the report.

The charges were investigated at extensive hearings held last year, with Col. Victor Corpus, Mary "Rosebud" Ong, and other witnesses testifying against Lacson and principally, Col. Reynaldo Acop in defense of his former chief. On Sept. 5, the hearings were abruptly terminated on the ground that the committees had heard enough evidence to reach a decision.

There followed a deep silence, during which the Senate went on recess and some of its members on the usual junkets as a privilege of their office. On Dec. 15, I wondered in this column what had happened to the Lacson case, in which the nation was still deeply interested despite the long delay in its resolution.

A week later, Senator Arroyo sent me a copy of the tentative draft of their report. He said the three committees were still evaluating the evidence of the parties with the help of an independent law firm and that their final report would be ready by the middle of the coming January. That deadline came and went, but without the promised report.

I was determined to pressure the three committees to release their report so I nagged them in three more articles in this column, the first on March 19, the second on April 15, and the third on June 1, 2002. After a few days, Senator Arroyo sent me by special messenger a copy of the final report and recommendation on the Lacson case signed by the chairs of the three investigating committees.

The report dismissed the charge of money-laundering for lack of evidence, but without prejudice to its refiling after obtention of such evidence. However, it voted to refer to the Department of Justice or the Office of the Ombudsman, for appropriate administrative or criminal action, its findings on Lacson's possible involvement in drug trafficking and the kidnap-for-ransom of five Chinese nationals.

The report also faulted Lacson for violation of the PNP Code of Professional Conduct, the Professional Code of Conduct of Public Officials, laws prohibiting a police officer from investigating a case where he himself is named as a suspect, and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Voted 7-5 in the first committee, 10-10 in the second, and 10-9 in the third, the report was supposed to be filed on June 6, 2001, the date of the adjournment of the Senate. But this was not done because of the defection of Sen. John Osmeña to the erstwhile opposition that gave it the majority vote to block the report.

The new majority was short-lived, however. Sen. Blas Ople left it to be foreign secretary and Sen. Robert Jaworski joined his father-in-law in the Drilon group, making it the old majority again. There is, therefore, no more numerical obstacle to the submission of the report to the Senate plenary for its discussion and, if the numbers hold, eventual approval.

But there is a political hitch. A measure can be discussed on the floor only if it is placed in the order of business as determined by the Rules Committee. Majority floor leader Loren Legarda who chairs that committee, is hesitant to place the report on the agenda, saying it is a controversial and emotional issue that is likely to spark division in the chamber.

My dear Loren, you are not in a garden club discussing dandelions and roses. You are a leader in the Senate, where the members are expected to slug it out (but with parliamentary courtesy) on precisely controversial questions, ventilating and debating their pros and cons for the information of the people. You are not in a rubber-stamp assembly but in a divided Senate where only junkets are approved unanimously.

Your fear that there are other more pressing matters that may be shunted by the Lacson case is a naïve pretext for sweeping it under the rug to die of suffocation. An open debate on the alleged criminality of one of your colleagues should be reason enough for him to clear his name or for the Senate to discipline him for further tarnishing its imperfect image.

There is a more practical reason for the report to be made the subject of public discussion in the Senate, and it is this. Senator Lacson is now being touted as a candidate for president of the Philippines in 2004. A resolution on the report, favorable or not, should be useful in informing the people if he deserves to be in Malacañang or in prison.

## 'Jueteng' is bleeding the poor

**COMMENTARY**

*Dr. Alfredo G. Crespo*

IT has been estimated that the gross yearly take of gambling lords from *jueteng* is P20 billion.

If this is the case, the economic death of the poorest of the poor among the Filipinos has been sealed in the coffin of national callousness, apathy and ignorance. To be able to pluck the poor out of their economic misery, capital investment has to be brought to where they are. Taking away from them P20 billion yearly reverses this fundamental canon of economics. It is plain banditry, the kind where unsuspecting victims welcome their enemies whom they mistake for their economic saviors.

Designed to get the bettors' money, the gambling operators would choose the number combination with the least number of bettors or with the smallest amount of bets. Rigging of results is public knowledge, but the bettors continue to put in their money out of desperation just the same.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. has admitted that it's a nearly impossible task to obliterate *jueteng*. He has gathered reports (to which I have assigned financial figures) that are very disturbing. Local government and local police officials are given 14 percent (P2.8 billion). Some top police officers based in Camp Crame receive 5 percent (P1 billion).

It is disheartening that local officials would steal from the poor by sharing in the gambling loot. With the subtle blessing they give to *jueteng*, how could it be possibly eliminated?

Doubly appalling is the protection the police give to gambling operations. Many officers and men in uniform have remained untainted with corruption. However, the wary public can't help suspect that they are a minority in the police organization.

Because of this shameful entanglement in illegal gambling, the men in uniform are expected to play deaf, mute and dumb. Who will then implement the anti-gambling law now that law enforcers have turned gambling bouncers?

On the national government level, the highest form of hypocrisy has been unearthed in shame. Former President Joseph Estrada is now facing criminal charges arising from the *jueteng* scandal. He was identified as the godfather of *jueteng* by his former friend and associate, Chavit Singson, erstwhile governor of Ilocos Sur. Under oath, Singson narrated during the Estrada impeachment trial that he served as the bagman of his former boss. Based on the testimony of Singson, Estrada was guilty of robbing rather than helping the poor whose welfare he claimed to champion.

Under the Estrada administration, the Philippine National Police launched a massive and seemingly no-nonsense nationwide campaign against *jueteng*. It turned out to be merely a ploy to deceive the public into believing that Estrada was dead serious about stamping out gambling.

It is also public knowledge that *jueteng* is a colossal basket into which politicians dip their hands to bankroll prohibitive campaign expenditures. We have a picture of politicians out to use the poor through systematic and methodical sucking of their economic lifeblood. They steal from them through *jueteng* and return the money in the form of slyly wrapped financial favors, disguised as acts of altruism.

The law that penalizes those who engage in *jueteng* operations is next to useless as it lacks the mighty force that could crush this form of gambling. When apprehended, bet collectors are merely fined between P400 and P2,000 or imprisonment for two to four years.

The operators when caught, are simply required to pay P6,000 or stay in jail for four years and one day up to six years, which makes them qualified to apply for probation. With the huge amount of money they rake in, paying the fine is peanuts. Even staying in prison for four to six years would just be an inconvenient break.

It is quite appalling that no gambling lord has ever been caught and penalized. They have effectively played escape artist with the protection they get from politicians and the police.

It is widely believed that there is no way at present to stamp out *jueteng*. This had led some sectors to entertain the idea of legalizing it. They argue that the money would then go into the public coffers instead of into the pockets of corrupt government officials.

This attitude of surrender is reflective of the present state of Philippine society. Money has taken primacy over the divinely appointed supreme importance of man in the whole of creation. How could God-fearing Christians, as the majority of Filipinos claim to be, subordinate the welfare of the poor to tax collection? Whatever happened to our moral sensibilities and religious convictions?

God have mercy on the Philippines!

*Dr. Alfredo G. Crespo is a professor at the PACE Graduate School of Christian Education in Quezon City. He writes a column for the Gulf News, an English daily published in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.*

# Ask your House rep to vote on charges vs Tancangco

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

TWO weeks ago, a disturbing development in the House of Representatives passed almost unnoticed. The committee on justice ruled, without any explanation, that the impeachment charges against Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco is to be dismissed. Those charges have been strongly supported by official COA, Comelec and Supreme Court records indicating graft and corruption, betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution. Seven of the 16 committee members present gallantly stood their ground on Tancangco's culpability, explaining in clear, lucid fashion why they voted "yes" to the impeachment complaint. They argued that the complaint ought to be investigated by the committee. Interestingly, the nine members who voted to throw out the complaint did not bother to explain their vote.

* * *

**But not all is lost for those who believe Tancangco should be impeached. The justice committee is mandated to submit the report to the rules committee, which will then submit it to the plenary body within 10 days after receipt of that report. Because impeachment is such a serious matter, the rules mandate that the House members explain their vote on that report individually. A vote of one-third of the House membership or at least 72 members, can compel the House to reverse the justice committee's decision. A one-third vote constitutes an order for the committee to conduct a formal investigation of the charges.**

**Every citizen who values good governance should urge his or her representative in Congress to be present at that plenary session and vote on this issue. Tell your representative to be "on the right side of history."**

* * *

By now reams and reams of copy have been written by the media around the world about how the Republican Party grabbed victory in the US Congress. Analysts have noted that this is the first time in many decades that both chambers of Congress have been captured by the ruling party. It is also the first time in over a decade that the party in the White House controls the Senate. Doubtless it has been a spectacular win for President Bush, who campaigned very hard for the Republican candidates across the US and raised funds for them.

The consensus is that the overwhelming favorable verdict of the US electorate on Bush's administration's handling of the terrorist crisis will strengthen his determination to go to war against Iraq, but there's also the worry that it would firm up his tendency toward "unilateralism" or going against Iraq even without the support of the United Nations. The Bush administration is now pressing for a UN Security Council vote against Iraq. There's little doubt about how Bush would act if he doesn't get UN support.

* * *

**Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad has made a succinct point. Acknowledging the US election results as a "vote of confidence" in the policies of Bush, Mahathir warned that the world's extreme Islamic groups are also getting stronger. He observed that "the Islamic parties are also becoming popular" so that there is also going to be "increasing confrontation" as the two sides, the Islamic world and the US, "play up their anger and hatred to the maximum." He predicted that "we're going to see a world which is not going to be very calm."**

* * *

The victory of Islamic groups Mahathir warned about is evident in Pakistan, where hard-line Islamic parties and a pro-democracy bloc have forged a deal giving them the parliamentary majority needed to form a coalition government. This coalition has announced plans to try to elect a new prime minister, possibly in the person of the head of the Party of Islamic Clerics, who will challenge the candidate of pro-US President Pervez Musharraf. This development worries even neighboring Afghanistan, because these hard-line Islamic parties have also supported the Taliban and are staunchly opposed to Musharraf's pro-US stance. It is feared that invigorated by support from the newly empowered Islamic Pakistani leaders, the Taliban would launch a fresh wave of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan.

* * *

**The anti-American feeling prevailing in the Islamic world has also enabled Islamic parties in Bahrain, Morocco and just recently in Turkey to score significant election victories. In Turkey, a party with deep Islamic roots but a reformist platform won a solid majority and enough seats in Parliament to form a government. Its victory is viewed as a fresh wind of change from the corruption-prone pro-US regime of 72-year-old PM Bulent Ecevit. But precisely because the victorious party has strong Islamic roots, the US is worried about its future alliance, for Turkey hosts US bases crucial in a war against Iraq. The victors recently said they are assessing this grant of US access against Iraq.**

* * *

Specialists assert that the victory of the various Islamic political parties in the Arab world was not due to the peoples' belief in these parties' capability to solve social and economic problems but just their way of giving vent to Islamic religious sentiment. As Mohammed Darif, a professor of political science in Morocco, put it, "Arab and Muslim populations think the war against terrorism is nothing but a war against Islam, the culture of Islam, the Arab culture." Unfortunately, he said, the Islamic parties have been able to exploit this sentiment.

The escalation of the hatred between the Western world and the Islamic/Arab peoples that Mahathir referred to and the blurring of distinctions between good and bad elements in both cultures are deplorable. For it is clear that there are believers in Islam who vehemently condemn the terrorist tactics as being against its tenets, just as there are people in the West who don't support the United States' unilateral action.

# Another sad PAL tale

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

ONE of the Filipino participants in the recent workshop on emergency contraception that I attended in Bangkok arrived a day late, and therein lies a tale. Ron Tupaz-Villas, a media person based in Tacloban, took a PAL flight to Bangkok that, by all rights, should have taken about three hours but extended into a whole day's nightmare.

As Ron tells it, the flight was about halfway to Bangkok when the pilot announced that because of problems with the landing gear, he was turning back to Manila. When they landed, they were assured that the aborted flight, which left around 10 a.m., would be pushing through by noon. "At 1 p.m., an announcement was made about snacks being available, but still no word about when we would depart," Ron recalls. Some passengers, especially foreigners who had connecting flights to catch, became agitated and engaged PAL personnel in shouting matches. Still, no word was forthcoming on when they would finally board the plane to Bangkok. "We finally left around 4 p.m., with only perfunctory apologies from the PAL people," Ron recalls.

We then jumped in with tales of our own flying woes with PAL (and it seems every regular PAL patron has accumulated at least a few hairy tales). We all said that no airline is perfect (though they should all strive for it) and we understood that in many cases delays are unavoidable. But PAL aggravates the situation when: the ground personnel offer little or no information to anxious passengers nor regular updates on the status of their flights; the airline offers few amenities save for meager snacks, when sometimes inconvenienced passengers would much prefer free phone calls to the other end; it offers no help to passengers who've missed connecting flights and are rushing to urgent appointments. A little compassion and understanding would go a long way, we—experienced travelers "burnt" once too often by PAL—all agreed.

* * *

**WELL, here's another story told by another PAL patron in hopes that those foolish enough to remain loyal to the flag carrier would get the kind of service they deserve.**

**Last July 16, Gabriel "Bong" Daza, employed these days as a public relations advisor to Gov. Bongbong Marcos of Ilocos Norte, went to the Vancouver airport early to check in for the 11 p.m. flight to Manila. He wanted to have dinner with his mother and siblings before boarding the plane, and so he decided to check-in at 7:30 p.m. in hopes of being done with the formalities by eight. The basis for his optimistic projections? He held a fully paid first-class ticket.**

**When he reached the PAL counter, Daza found that he had to wait for 45 minutes at the first-class line, behind an economy passenger who was taking quite a long time to check in. Finally, a woman in the economy check-in counter called him but, after he checked in his two suitcases, he was told to wait for a PAL official who would check in the ticket for the puppy he was bringing with him. (Daza had flown in two dogs via PAL before, and had gone through the rigmarole of verifying the requirements for such "cargo.") "I waited 40 minutes for the lady (a certain Ms Ana Mendoza) to come, measure my cage and issue me my dog's plane ticket," Daza writes in a letter to PAL.**

**As he was about to leave the counter, the woman at the counter pointed out to Ms Mendoza that one of Daza's suitcases weighed 78 pounds while the other was 62 pounds. Mendoza then told him he would have to open his suitcases and transfer some of the contents of the heavier suitcase to the other one. "When I asked why, she told me that it was because of the Canadian Union Workers' Agreement," writes Daza. "She also said 'If something happens to the worker, like break his back or hand...you (pointing a finger at me) will be charged by the union." So then and there, in front of all the other passengers, Daza had to reopen his suitcases and repack them.**

* * *

DAZA says that his sister, who works for United Airlines in Vancouver, checked Mendoza's assertion about the agreement with the workers' union and found that there was no such agreement. "I have been a PAL patron since 1965 and this is the first time I, a fully paid first-class passenger, had to unpack my...suitcase...Never before was I asked to do this—and at the airport at that!"

Anyway, after Daza sent in a letter of complaint to PAL, airline officers met with him and, over lunch, apologized for Daza's travails. Later, Raul Fontanares, manager of PAL's customer relations office, wrote to Daza and offered him, by way of compensation, two round-trip business-class tickets on their trans-Pacific route.

After consulting his lawyer, though, Daza said he feels he is entitled to higher compensation, citing the inconvenience he went through and the embarrassment he was made to suffer. He therefore requested in return three economy-class round-trip tickets for his children and one first-class round-trip ticket for himself ("to make up for the 'un-first class' service I was subjected to"). PAL rejected Daza's demand, saying the first offer was made "purely for customer goodwill."

Daza says that after Margie Moran-Floirendo went to the media with a story of how she was inconvenienced by the cancellation of a PAL flight to Davao, forcing her to charter a plane for herself and her companions, PAL tried to mollify her with a similar offer of two business-class tickets. When she kicked up a fuss, Margie got instead five first-class and five business-class tickets. Daza thinks he deserves no less than his counter-offer.

I think PAL passengers in general deserve a better deal from this airline.

# Migration journalism

**COMMENTARY**

*Jeremaiah M. Opiniano*
*Institute on Church and Social Issues*

MIGRANT workers and their kin from Paco, Manila, follow closely developments that affect them. When asked during a focus group discussion what they read about, they mentioned jailed migrants, controversies in government and the growing number of Filipinos going overseas.

But a surprising response came from Riza, the daughter of a male OFW who had returned for good. Riza said she regularly read articles on OFWs who were about to be beheaded in Saudi Arabia. Then she added: "I read the newspapers daily, but the newspapers cannot help us. What we need is immediate help."

Such a statement can catch media people off guard. Traditionally, media professionals practice objectivity in their reportage. When they go beyond objective reporting, their credibility is questioned.

But can the media distance themselves from the problems of overseas Filipino workers and their families, which many see as a marginalized sector of Philippine society? Can they just disregard Riza's statement and go on merely reporting?

For months now, the Institute on Church and Social Issues has been supporting the OFW Journalism Consortium. This is an exploratory media-NGO network that writes about migration issues on a monthly basis. The consortium sends free news packets, each containing four or five stories, to media outfits (print, broadcast, online) and migration stakeholder organizations (government, civil society) here and abroad. The Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation (Novib) is financing the work of the consortium.

Why the need to have this kind of a group? This is not only because the media can be used as an effective advocacy tool. The intention here is to use the media to mainstream the voices and plight of vulnerable and marginalized sectors, such as OFWs. It is ironic that despite their immense economic contributions, OFWs remain a marginalized sector.

The media are also used to provide an in-depth analysis of the problems and issues surrounding Filipino migrants and their families. Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas keeps complaining that the media sensationalize stories, specifically on the controversial labor arrangements made between the labor department and Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs affecting unskilled OFWs. She gives the impression that the media are unreliable, that all published and broadcast stories about migration issues are erroneous. This might even include government-sourced stories, which are common in today's newspapers.

What the public gets, however, is only surface-level information. As a novelty, the consortium provides balanced, critical and in-depth reporting. While the struggle to get these relevant facts in print, on air, or online continues, what the group provides is a careful and holistic approach to treating migration issues. It is doing this in the face of the reality that deadline pressures force reporters to submit only surface-level stories.

More importantly, the OFW Journalism Consortium gives a human face to migration. The exodus of over seven million Filipinos is their way of coping with systemic poverty in the Philippines. From this point of view, one can hear many stories of how migrant workers undergo immense sacrifices for the sake of their families back home. In the book "Risks and Rewards" published by the international news agency Inter Press Service (IPS), there are stories of domestic workers in Hong Kong working in the sex industry during night time or of the wives of seafarers praying that when their husbands come back, they have not contracted HIV. One of the human interest stories the consortium has done is about a family of five who came back from Sabah and the uncertain future they will face when they go back to their hometown of Buug in the newly created province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

The OFW Journalism Consortium is promoting migration journalism not only as a specialized genre for print, broadcast or online journalism. Migration journalism here can be used to let the public know how our migrant citizens and their families endure the hardships they face. That is a message that should be repeatedly told to the government, which now admits that international labor migration seems to be a permanent fixture in the Filipinos' socio-economic lives. Since domestic employment remains scarce, and the government benefits from the remittances OFWs send, migration is now the state's development strategy. This is done at the expense of over eight million Filipino families affected by migration (many of which are broken already).

This also shows the relevance of migration journalism for Filipinos, who are now among the world's most globalized peoples, and a target client for online newspapers. In the end, what the OFW Journalism Consortium hopes to achieve is that through its writings migrants will gather themselves, reflect on these issues, do collective action and be empowered. The prospective absentee voting law is an example of how the media can be at the service of migrants.

International migration is a journalist's delight since many stories about migrants and their kin can be written. But if journalism continues to be satisfied with merely reporting the plight of these migrants and their families, and does very little to help solve their problems, then something is disturbingly problematic here.

*(The OFW Journalism Consortium, together with the University of Santo Tomas Journalism program, will hold a discussion-workshop on migration journalism on Dec. 7 at UST.)*

# Persuading mother

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Chris Cruz*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

MY mother has this lingering fear that once she gets confined in a hospital, she will never leave it alive. She's a product of a backward culture that regards hospitalization as only one short step away from the morgue. She thinks that if those bizarre-looking tubes and gadgets don't kill her, then the skyrocketing hospital bills surely will.

When she got sick recently, we managed to talk her into seeing a doctor. Since it was already late and all clinics were closed, we brought her to the emergency room as an outpatient. After some routine tests, the resident doctor said she had pneumonia in its early stage. She advised her admission to the hospital.

This is where the problem started. Nothing on earth could make her agree to be confined. She kept on saying she had heard about someone who died four days after she was brought to a hospital.

We told her that woman must have had a malignant disease, which had been slowly eating up her system.

But she was convinced that the hospital was the culprit. She said she wouldn't allow herself to suffer the same fate, if she could help it.

My siblings assured her that it would be like a vacation. She would stay in a private room where she wouldn't have to worry about running the household.

She wouldn't hear of it. I was sure a fiery argument would have ensued if we continued to insist for she is stubbornness personified. She can cling to a belief more tightly than a bigot.

I realized the gravity of the situation when the doctor, not wanting to order her confinement against her will, made her sign a waiver. My sister, in a fit of desperation, suggested that my mother be induced to sleep so she would wake up in a hospital bed the next morning. Of course, the doctor didn't agree. That same night, we brought her home again.

My siblings were worried. I was freaking out (although hardly showed it). I wanted her to get proper medical attention so as to prevent the disease from worsening. But she wouldn't budge from her position. I knew very well that a hard pitch on the merits of hospitalization wouldn't work. So I figured out ways to convince her.

On our way home, I tried to make her see the seriousness of the situation. The physician wouldn't have made her sign a waiver if she didn't think that confinement was necessary," began. They only wanted to run a few more tests, observe what develops, and release her when everything's okay. spoke calmly, carefully chosing my words so as not to cause her any undue alarm.

She vehemently refused to go back to the hospital. Time for a change of tack.

I confessed that my siblings and I were very concerned about her health. We didn't want anything bad to happen to her. All we wanted was to see her enjoy what remains of her days in the company of her grandchildren. We surely would not put her into a situation that was not for her. We were doing this because we cared. We only wanted the best for her.

Again, she gave me her standard retort. She obviously wasn't in the mood for some melodrama.

Knowing that she was a devout Christian, I decided to make my approach from this angle. I asked why she believed she would die in the hospital if she had faith? That person who died after four days in a hospital, probably didn't have half as much faith as she had.

She fell silent. I didn't know if my argument was sinking in or she was sinking into a deep sleep. (I was on the back seat; she was in front. I couldn't see if she was listening or dozing off.) I continued talking anyway, hoping that my religious babble would get her to reconsider her decision.

After a few quiet moments, she again let out her familiar response: I don't like that!

I was in panic. When we got home, everyone had given up on her. They couldn't think of anything to say that might convince her. But I wasn't about to give up. I couldn't bear to see her in such condition. I didn't want to eventually regret my not going the extra mile to persuade her. I just had to try something.

The next morning, I went up to her room. She was feebly trying to prop her body up in her bed. It broke my heart to see her like that. Why don't you just do what's good for you? I thought. If it were only possible to absorb all her pain, I would have done so at that moment.

I asked her how she was. She said she was feeling a little bit better.

Calmly, I again started to tell her she should go back to the hospital, careful not to show my real emotion. Then as I went on, I concocted a story about a friend whose mother had the same disease but who agreed to be treated in a hospital.

Mother looked interested. So I started to weave other elements into my story to make it more believable. I wanted to counter that four-day confinement horror story. That's what she had been using as an argument against hospitalization, so why couldn't I use another tale to convince her?

That same afternoon, she agreed to be brought to the hospital. Three days later, she was discharged and advised to rest for a couple of days. Now she's living in my sister's pad, away from all worries. I feel relieved, like the rest of our family.

Just recently, my father asked me to talk to her again. He wanted me to convince her to exercise her arthritic joints by walking outside regularly. She seemed to listen to me, he said.

It seems as if I have to polish my story-weaving skill again.

I don't know if my mother still sees hospitals as four-day killing institutions. Perhaps I may never change that perception. I'm just content seeing her slowly recuperating. That's enough to make a son happy.

---

*Chris Cruz, 25, is a free spirit who refuses to conform to society's expectations.*

**THEY SAID**

## Act now

"We cannot allow the past to be just a blank stare, for the future will emerge into nothingness. There is still time. We must act now."

*—Concerned Artists of the Philippines board member Alexander Umali on lost cultural artifacts*

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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# Law should be applied impartially

THE PRESIDENT should seriously consider a major revamp at the Bureau of Immigration. From what I have heard and seen, the bureau is being mismanaged. Imagine an office which is one of our show windows to the world violating the rights of foreigners.

Filipinos scream whenever something happens to their fellow Filipinos abroad. By the same token, we should respect the rights of all regardless of their nationality.

I think the commissioner is unaware of some rules and regulations. Look at the case of the Fil-Am actors and actresses whom she had threatened with deportation. None of them was ever deported.

A rule is a rule, and it should apply to all. All these actors and actresses were caught working without permit, but they got off the hook after paying a P100,000 fine! Why didn't Commissioner Andrea Domingo deport these actors and actresses? That amount is just a day's earning for some of these talents.

Although I am a Filipino born in Australia, I will say that Domingo was wrong in not deporting these actors and actresses. She should also have fined the networks for hiring them even if they did not have the proper papers and for not reporting them to the BIR for possible tax evasion. Because of all this, I think the commissioner doesn't deserve to be the head of the organization.

**—GERRY C. CLEMENTE,**
**Merville Park, Parañaque City**

# Plea for lower vehicle-smoke test fees

SINCE the passage of the Clean Air Act, motor vehicles have been required to go through a smoke emissions test before their licenses can be renewed. The private company engaged by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) charges P300 for the test, which is rather excessive. If a vehicle fails the first test, the owner has to have his vehicle fixed before another test is conducted. For subsequent tests, the owner has to pay another P300 each time until the computerized machine indicates that the vehicle passed the test.

For the rich this is not a problem because their cars are new. But this is a big problem for the middle class since they can afford to buy only old vehicles, which are more likely to fail the first test.

I am, therefore, appealing to Assistant Secretary Roberto Lastimoso, head of the LTO, on behalf of the working class, to lower the fee to a more reasonable amount. The testing fee should include two further tests if the vehicle doesn't make it the first time.

**—L. ENCHONG SEE,**
**enchong@eudoramail.com**

# Travails of a provincial contractor

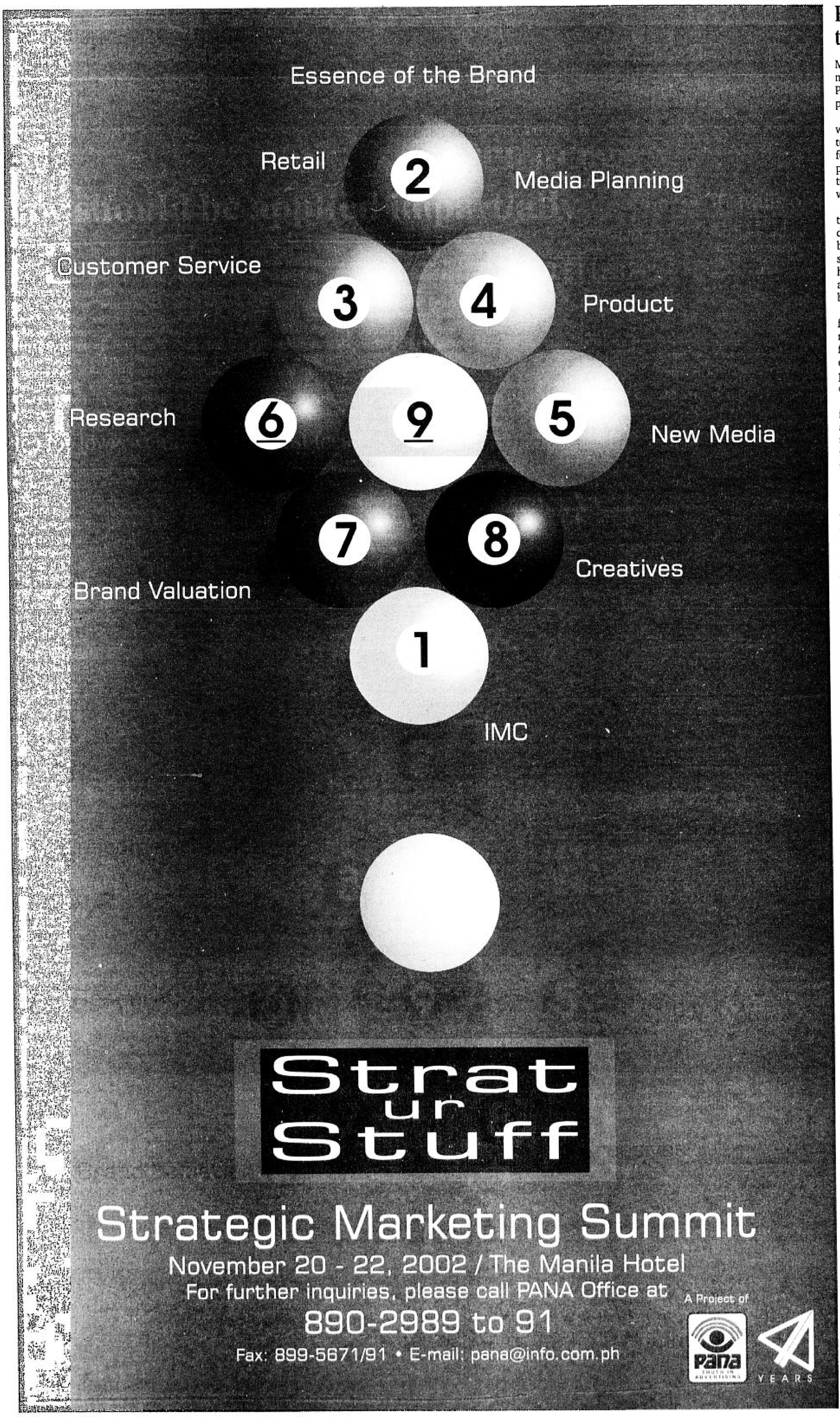
NOW comes the survey results of Transparency International showing the Philippines to be the 11th most corrupt nation. Earlier, I had wanted to comment on the adverse reaction of some of our high officials to US Ambassador Richard Ricciardone's frank statements about our country.

As the owner of a construction company and a hardware store in the Visayas, I have had to "come across" or else my businesses would fold up. One columnist even stated that we businessmen were partly to blame. But the fate of our business lies in the hands of officials from the barangay captain up to the mayor, governor, congressman and the district engineer. If the mayor or governor is clean, one still has to contend with a corrupt administrative officer or municipal or city engineer.

The share or the "SOP," as we call the kickbacks, at the barangay level comes after the release of the billing, but the others usually demand an advance payment of 10 to 20 percent. A contractor I know had to make a P1 million contribution during the last elections. A congressman is said to have demanded P200,000 from another contractor. Some years back an acquaintance was hospitalized, unable to bear the pressure of having to prepare the papers covering a multimillion-peso ghost project on an island province just a few weeks before the elections.

These politicians look so innocent especially when they appear on TV. Why does the press not look into these scandalous transactions?

**—NAME WITHHELD**
**ON REQUEST, Cebu City**



# Perils of winning the lotto

MY friend, who had won a lotto prize, told me about the sad experience he had with Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office employees when he claimed his prize.

First, a male security guard showed him the window where to validate the ticket, after telling him to first sign at the back of the ticket for his protection. At the window, a female employee inserted the ticket into a machine and told him to come inside and proceed to a table where a male employee was seated.

This male employee filled up a form with the date from the ticket and my friend's address and home and office telephone numbers. He also requested him to buy sweepstakes tickets displayed on top of his table. He had no ID, like the other PCSO employees who also had sweepstakes tickets lying on their tables.

Then another employee in another section further verified the winning ticket and made more notes before telling him to go to the first floor for the issuance of the check. A female employee asked him if he preferred a Philippine National Bank or a LandBank check. He chose a PNB check.

Two days later, my friend started receiving telephone calls from strangers selling real estate, condo units, insurance and other things. Up to now, he does not know how his telephone numbers got into the hands of these salesmen.

**—MELVIN DAVID,**
**Dolores, San Fernando City, Pampanga**

# Dire straits for local movies

A NUMBER of movie and TV program producers seem very desperate. They are unscrupulously falling into smut, or scandalous pornography. Those billboards all over the country tell the dismal state of the industry. Pornographic movies and vulgar TV programs destroy the moral fiber of the family. They encourage crimes against human sexuality. They are NOT art at all!

It would be a very sad and bad thing if the industry also turns to be a breeding ground for loose morals.

I hope to see in my lifetime a quality leap in Filipino movies. Filipinos, who are so likeable and God-fearing, deserve better and morally sound entertainment.

**—MEL WILSON,**
**Centro, Buguey, Cagayan Valley**

# Schools need more books

THE INQUIRER should be commended for bringing up the issue of lack of books in our schools and for shedding light on the Books for the Barrios program in an article last Nov. 4. I believe that in order to make significant inroads in improving our public school system, one crucial step the government has to take is to provide students a steady supply of reference books and other pertinent reading materials.

While there have been honest and notable initiatives taken in this regard by non-profit organizations like Nancy Harrington's, a strong and unwavering public sector support remains urgent.

During the 11th Congress, Rep. Renato Leviste of the First District of Oriental Mindoro sponsored a bill seeking to institutionalize the gathering of books, reference texts and other pertinent reading materials from local and foreign donors alike. This piece of legislation likewise authorized the Department of Education to designate a division or an office from its existing workforce that would oversee the implementation of the program. While the bill was approved by the Lower House, it was met with less enthusiasm by the Senate allegedly due to "more pressing matters."

In the 12th Congress, Rep. Charity Leviste refiled the same bill, hoping that it would finally be passed into law. House Bill No. 4561 has already been transmitted to the Senate where it awaits further scrutiny.

In view of the social benefits this bill will bring upon our less privileged *kababayans*, I am requesting other sectors of media and the public to take up this issue. I hope and pray that with sufficient information and constant lobbying, this bill will finally become a law.

**—ENRIQUE NIÑO P. LEVISTE,**
**chief of staff, Office of Rep. Charity P. Leviste,**
**House of Representatives,**
**Constitution Hills, Quezon City**

# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# UN set to pass resolution against Iraq

**UNITED NATIONS—Buoyed by a last-minute deal with France, the United States was confident of UN approval on Friday for a tough resolution that gives Iraq one last chance to disarm or face war.**

Despite major concessions to France and Russia during two months of arduous negotiations, the new UN Security Council resolution still leaves Washington free to attack Iraq without a formal second resolution authorizing the use of force.

The resolution, co-sponsored by Britain, gives UN arms inspectors, who have been out of Iraq for four years, "immediate, unimpeded and unconditional" rights to search anywhere for weapons of mass destruction, including President Saddam Hussein's presidential compounds.

It threatens Iraq with "serious consequences" if it does not take advantage of "a final opportunity" to cooperate.

BUSH

Diplomats expect a "yes" vote from every council member except Syria whose deputy ambassador, Fayssal Mekdad, said on Thursday Washington had failed to incorporate several of his suggestions, including an offer to ease the 12-year-old UN sanctions against Iraq if it cooperated.

A resolution in the 15-member council needs a minimum of nine votes for adoption and no veto from its permanent members—the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China.

US President George W. Bush expressed pleasure over the outcome of his challenge to the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 12 when he told the world body to get tough with Iraq or the United States would act alone.

"When this resolution passes, I will be able to say that the United Nations has recognized the threat and now we're going to work together and disarm him," Bush said on Thursday.

Support from France and Russia was nearly jeopardized when the United States introduced its third and final draft. It added a phrase that France, Russia and others believed gave Washington a "hidden trigger" for war under the guise of UN Security Council approval.

But a breakthrough came on Thursday, following a telephone conversation between Bush and French President Jacques Chirac. A tiny word change—"and" substituted for "or"—assured critics concerned about the most explosive paragraph in the six-page resolution. *Reuters*

# US dealt blow on anti-torture int'l treaty

UNITED NATIONS—The United States on Thursday lost its battle against a new international treaty aimed at eliminating torture and improving prison conditions as a UN committee overwhelmingly approved the pact.

The UN General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with human rights questions, voted 104 to 8 with 37 abstentions to adopt the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

The committee also soundly rejected—98 to 11 with 37 abstentions—a US amendment that would have removed funding for the treaty from the general UN budget and forced the parties to the protocol to shoulder its costs.

The votes set the stage for a showdown on the floor of the UN General Assembly next month when all the members of the world body are to vote on adopting the treaty that would create a regime for global prison inspections.

The State Department had said that Washington would abstain from Thursday's vote on the protocol if its financing amendment was approved but reiterated major objections to the treaty.

"We have concerns about a number of elements and over a 10-year negotiating period we have worked hard with the international community to fix the major problems," spokesperson Richard Boucher said.

He stressed that the United States "abhorred the despicable practice of torture" and would continue to be a leading advocate against it, but said Washington could not support the new treaty.

Boucher said the prison inspection system itself was inadequate as it did not provide for surprise visits to detention facilities but would rather have experts look at them in scheduled trips on a rotating basis.

"It's a flawed inspection process that shows little likelihood of really finding the evidence of torture and working to combat torture," he said. *AFP*

# US approves 20-minute HIV test

WASHINGTON—People will soon be able to learn before leaving the doctor's office if they're infected with the AIDS virus.

The US government on Thursday approved a 20-minute HIV test that AIDS experts say is so easy to use it will greatly cut the number of people who unknowingly carry and spread the disease

It's not the first rapid HIV test. A competing version has been sold since the mid-1990s, but it is so difficult to use that hardly any clinics offer it. Today's routine HIV tests take up to two weeks to provide results—and at least 8,000 people a year who test positive at public clinics never return to get the news.

The new OraQuick test should slash that number—and encourage even more of the almost quarter-million Americans who don't know they're infected to seek testing, federal scientists said Thursday in announcing Food and Drug Administration approval of OraQuick.

This is "a very, very important milestone," said FDA science chief Dr. Murray Lumpkin.

To use OraQuick, a health worker pricks a person's finger, drops a spot of blood into a vial of developing solution and drops in the sticklike testing device.

The dipstick gives results similar to common pregnancy tests: One reddish line means no HIV. Two reddish lines mean the person may be infected and needs a confirmatory test to be sure.

OraQuick at first will be available only in hospitals and large health clinics because of a law that restricts who can use certain types of medical tests.

But the test is so simple that Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson urged manufacturer OraSure Technologies Inc. to seek a waiver of that law allowing OraQuick to be sold in far more places—from small doctors' offices to mobile testing vans and maybe even HIV counseling centers staffed by social workers instead of health professionals. *AP*

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# Jiang calls for growth, control

BEIJING—President Jiang Zemin opened China's most important political meeting in a decade here Friday, outlining his vision of a nation powered by private capitalism, but still under the strict control of the Communist Party.

Addressing 2,114 delegates in Beijing's cavernous Great Hall of the People at the start of the party's week-long 16th Congress, Jiang said China's rulers must "free our minds from the shackles of outdated notions, practices and systems."

In what is likely to be his last major address before retiring as party chief, Jiang paid lip-service to the organization's Marxist roots, but urged the pursuit of market reforms, calling for a quadrupling of China's economy by 2020.

"Reform and opening up are ways to make China powerful," said Jiang, standing in front of a red backdrop emblazoned with a vast hammer and sickle emblem.

Of particular note was Jiang's allusions to a key—and highly controversial—reform due to be approved at the meeting: his own plan for capitalists to join the party.

"We should admit into the Party advanced elements of other social strata who accept the Party's program and constitution," he said, using party language often used to refer to the country's rich.

However he stressed that whatever the moves towards economic liberalization, the party elite should remain in firm control of China's 1.3 billion people.

"We must uphold leadership by the (party) and consolidate and improve the state system, a people's democratic dictatorship," he said in his 90-minute speech.

"We should never copy any models of the political system of the West," he added.

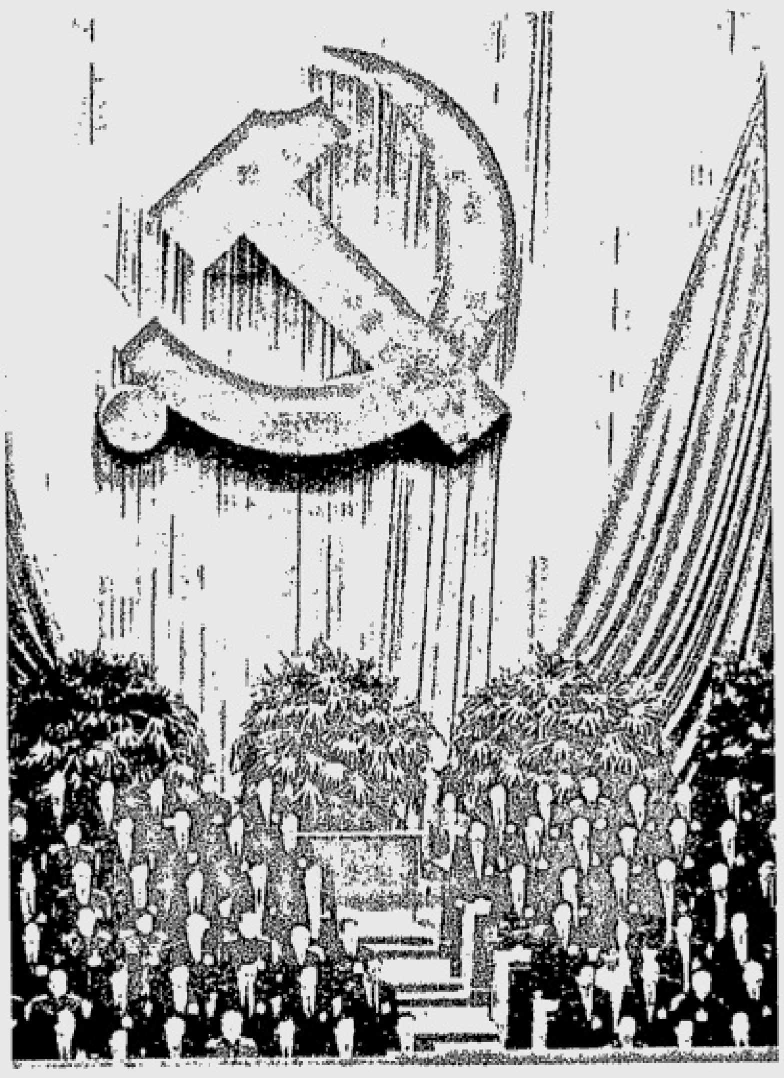
Jiang, 76, is among a string of elderly leaders expected to shed their party posts at the Congress, the start of China's first major leadership reshuffle since 1989.

Vice President Hu Jintao, 59, is tipped to take over as party head, and then become president next spring. The succession remains a complete secret although it is due to be announced a day after the week-long Congress ends.

Analysts said the repeated references to Jiang's 13 years in power appeared to mean it was likely to end soon.

"This clearly indicates that Jiang will resign from his number one position as general secretary of the party," said former party official Wu Guoguang, now of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

However Jiang is widely thought to be seeking a great measure of influence after his retirement, and Friday's speech indicated he expects it to linger. *AFP*



**DELEGATES and China's top leaders stand for the national anthem beneath a Communist hammer-and-sickle emblem, Nov. 8 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, for the opening session of 16th Communist Party Congress.** AFP

# UN defers proposal to ban human cloning

UNITED NATIONS—A key UN committee on Thursday put off for a year a Franco-German proposal for a global ban on human cloning that the United States has rejected as too narrow.

The panel acted after a US-led drive to broaden the proposal to ban all research cloning of human embryos picked up the support of more than 30 nations, forcing Paris and Berlin to abandon their push for a new treaty to be ready for ratification by early 2004.

"All we have is a deferral of a discussion," Jeanne Head of the International Right to Life Federation said. "If we hadn't deferred, we would end up with no ban at all as it would divide the committee."

George Annas, professor of public health and bioethics at Boston University and a champion of a treaty on cloning, called the decision "a shame."

"The delay will give France and Germany another year to persuade people that there is something worthwhile in research cloning, and that you can conduct such research without making babies," Annas said.

"As research cloning is now already under way in many parts of the world including the United States, the delay means that scientists everywhere including in the United States can continue such research for at least another year," he added.

A US official earlier called the decision by the UN General Assembly's legal committee a major victory for Washington at the United Nations, saying, "We very strongly feel that no decision is better than a bad decision."

French and German diplomats portrayed the maneuver as a temporary setback in their campaign for an international agreement outlawing the cloning of human beings. *Reuters*

# 2 people being treated for bubonic plague in NY

NEW YORK—Two people visiting New York from New Mexico were being treated on Thursday with symptoms of bubonic plague, the first likely cases of the deadly bacterial disease in the city in more than 100 years, officials said.

Health officials announced on Wednesday night that a 53-year-old man had tested "presumptively positive" for bubonic plague and his 47-year-old wife had similar symptoms, but test results were not yet known.

The man is in isolation and is in critical condition, Mike Quane, spokesperson for the Beth Israel Medical Center in Manhattan, said on Thursday evening. The couple has not been identified.

The city health department said bubonic plague, which has largely been eradicated but does occur in the rural southwest of the country in states such as New Mexico, is not spread from person to person and there is no risk to New York's population of 8 million, the largest city in the United States.

If detected early, bubonic plague can be treated with a 10-day course of antibiotics, but about 10 percent of patients die after becoming ill from plague, health officials said.

Bubonic plague is a bacterial disease of rodents transmitted to humans through the bites of infected fleas.

In the 14th century, a combination of bubonic plague and pneumonic plague killed millions in Europe in what was known as the Black Death. *Reuters*

# Gibraltarians firmly vote to remain British

GIBRALTAR—Gibraltarians overwhelmingly rejected a British-Spanish plan to share sovereignty of the colony, dealing a setback to attempts by London and Madrid to heal a centuries-old dispute.

Almost 99 percent of the more than 18,000 Gibraltarians who cast valid votes in a referendum on Thursday opposed Britain giving Spain a share of sovereignty over its colony attached to Spain's southern coast, official results said.

Only 187 people voted in favor of the idea as Gibraltarians showed their firm determination to remain British.

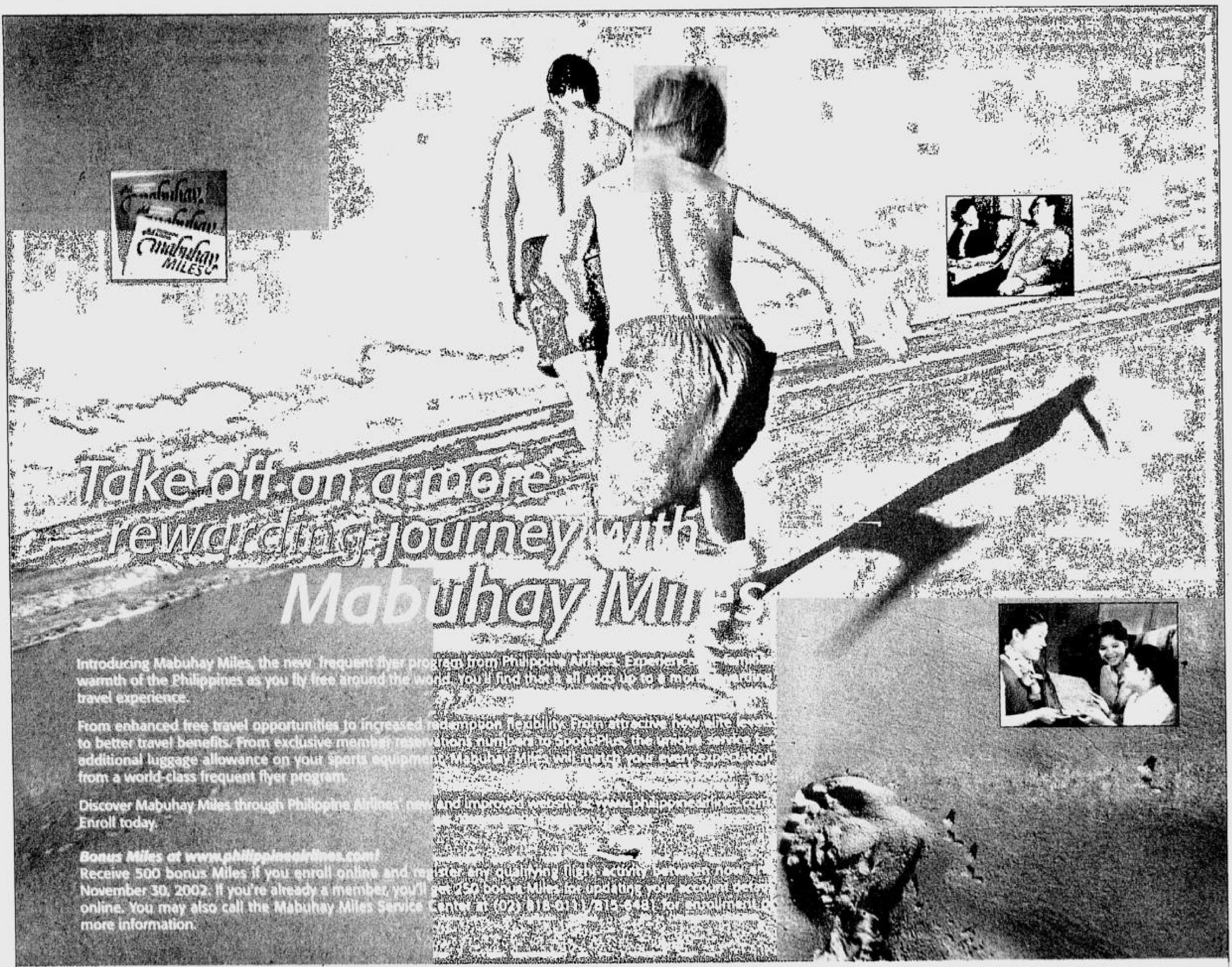
Gibraltar Chief Minister Peter Caruana, who called the referendum to demonstrate the strength of local opposition to the British-Spanish negotiations, urged the British government on Friday to abandon any idea of joint sovereignty.

"(British Prime Minister) Tony Blair . . . I know, will have full regard to this result and kick the joint sovereignty policy into long grass from which it will never emerge," he said.

Turnout in the referendum was high, with almost 88 percent of the electorate taking part.

The announcement of the one-sided result at 2:40 a.m. was greeted by cheers from hundreds of people who gathered outside election headquarters, waving British flags.

Inside, Caruana basked in ecstatic applause from supporters for a speech in which he urged the Spanish government to sit up and take note of the result. One factor behind it, he said, was the "sheer contempt with which (Spain) systematically treats the people of Gibraltar." *Reuters*



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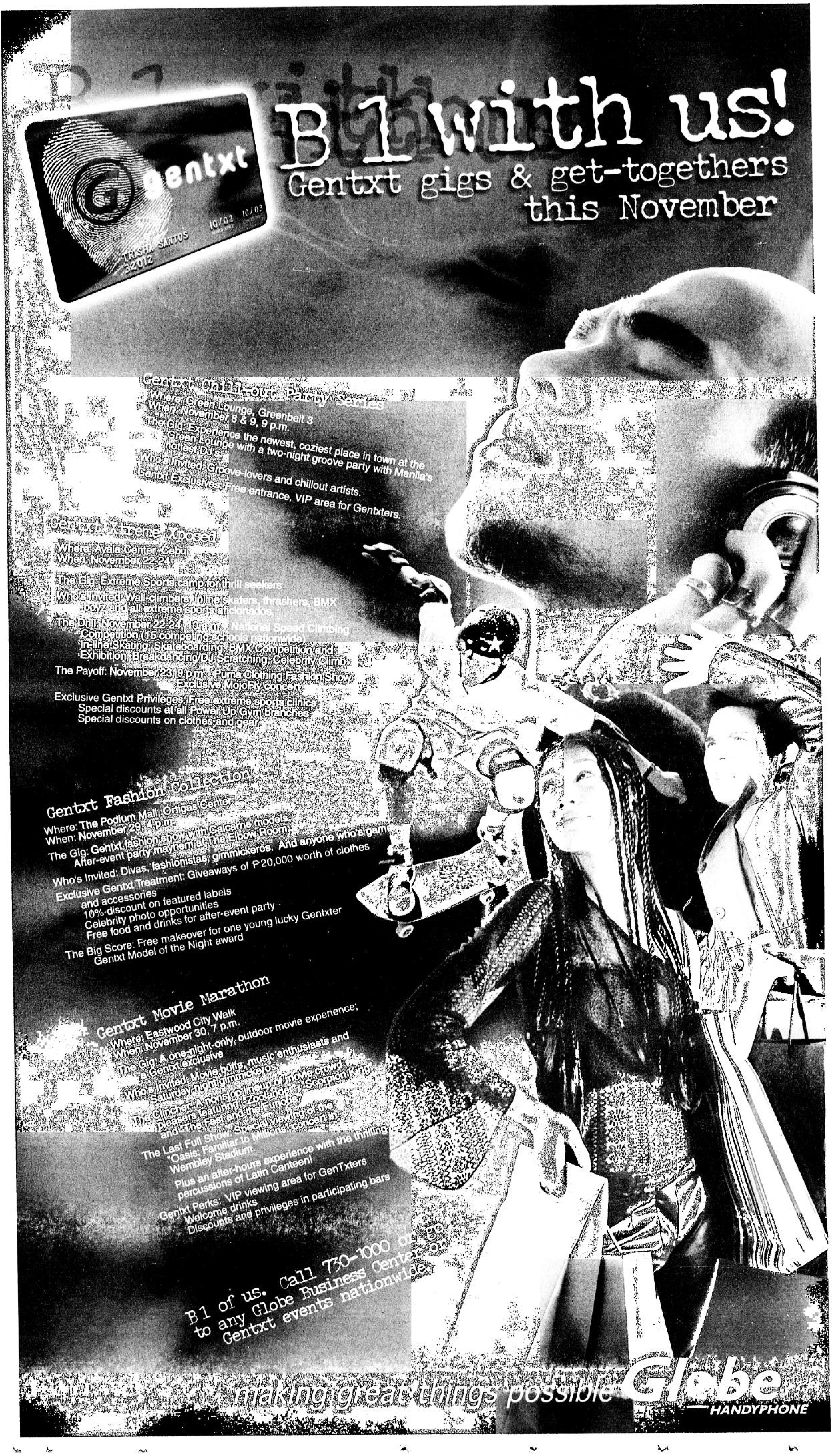

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# Bayan appeals to NDF, gov't to resume talks, carry out agreements

TACLOBAN CITY—The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Sinirangan Bisayas based in this city has called on the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) to immediately resume their formal peace talks.

It also strongly sought the immediate and full implementation of the gains of the peace process particularly the creation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law "as a sign of goodwill and confidence building measures" on the part of the government.

The call came days after the United States and the European Union labeled the New People's Army and the Communist Party of the Philippines as terrorist organizations and CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison as a terrorist.

In reaction, Sison said on national television last week that the NDF was pulling out of the peace talks.

Melvin Anino, secretary general of Bayan-Eastern Visayas, said in a press statement that the government should stop its smear campaign against the CPP-NPA-NDF because this leads to questions on the government's sincerity in efforts to forge a genuine and lasting peace.

"Instead, they should create a favorable condition for the resumption of the peace talks and tackle the next agendum which is the Comprehensive Agreement for Socio-Economic Reforms," Anino said, referring to the government.

He said there is a need to address the socioeconomic roots of the armed conflict to attain a just and lasting peace. "We believe that this can come about only with basic social, economic and political reforms," he added.

Formal peace negotiations between the government and the NDF was resumed early last year but were suspended by the government after the communist rebels carried out high-profile assassinations.

The President has since then authorized only "back-channel" contacts with the NDF. It was reported on Sunday that President Macapagal-Arroyo and her advisers were still evaluating options regarding the peace negotiations with the NDF.

Chief government negotiator Eduardo Ermita, was also quoted as saying that the Cabinet was working on a draft peace agreement that could serve as terms of reference for future peace talks with the NDF. *Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Cops seize 2,000 kg of hazardous chemicals

**LUCENA CITY—Tipped off by residents, policemen here swooped down on an abandoned warehouse here past noon yesterday and seized at least 2,050 kilos of ammonium nitrate, now considered as highly dangerous agricultural chemical and which could be used to make bombs.**

Police Supt. Danny Ramon Siongco, Lucena police chief, said the raiding team also arrested the alleged caretaker of the warehouse located at Teachers Village in Barangay Cotta, this city.

The caretaker is a 17-year-old resident of the barangay.

Ammonium nitrate is an agricultural chemical and is the main ingredient in making home-made bombs.

Last month, the local police also recovered three tons of the said chemicals in the same barangay.

Siongco said police received information on the presence of explosive materials from residents who feared that the chemicals might be used for terrorism.

The police recovered 70 sacks containing 25 kilos each of ammonium nitrate, six sacks with 50 kilos each and several pieces of blasting caps.

Chief Insp. Nelso Lequin, leader of the police team that conducted the raid, said that the warehouse was formerly owned by one Wilfredo Rivera but was now reportedly owned by the Laguna Central Credit Corp.

The police are still investigating if the purchase and storage of the chemicals were covered by permits and licenses.

Siongco said the police have started to monitor the areas where explosive chemicals are supposed to be being traded.

The police identified Barangay Cotta and other coastal villages as sources of fertilizers and other chemicals that may be used to make bombs.

The seized chemicals have been turned over to the bomb disposal unit of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Unified Command in Camp Nakar.

Lequin said those types of agricultural chemicals should be stored and kept inside "concrete bunkers" for safety.

The government has tightened security around the country following a series of bombings in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila that killed dozens of people and wounded scores of others.

Amid the paranoia being generated by terrorism, however, members of Muslim communities, like those in Negros Oriental, sought to assure the government of their support for peace.

Former Assemblyman Enrique Medina Jr. said the more than 2,000 Muslims in Negros Oriental are also for peace.

"The Muslims are allied with the Sunnis, who are generally peaceful," he said.

Medina said the Abu Sayyaf do not have the support of the Muslim community because what they are doing is "un-Islamic."

"We do not conform to their actuation at all," he said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau with reports from Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# 3 gunmen ambush, kill 4 businessmen in Isabela

ILAGAN, Isabela—Four traders were killed and a woman was wounded Thursday night when three armed men opened fire at them with Armalite rifles on the Santiago-Tuguegarao Road in Sta. Maria town, police said.

The five victims were riding in a van to deliver prawns and lobsters in Pampanga when they were waylaid, police said.

Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, identified the fatalities as Rolando Castillo, Nestor Castillo, Luis Castillo and Fidel Susa, all seafood traders of Buguey, Cagayan.

Taken to the St. Paul Hospital in Tuguegarao City was Rofel Castillo. She suffered eight gunshot wounds but was declared out of danger, her mother Fe said.

Police said three men, riding in a red Revo, overtook the victims' van as it approached Barangay Naganacan in Sta. Maria.

The gunmen fired at the victims, fatally hitting four of them.

Investigators ruled out robbery in the attack as the victims' belongings were intact. They said business rivalry could be the motive.

They said rivals of the Castillos in buying and selling seafood products in Cagayan could have hired the killers. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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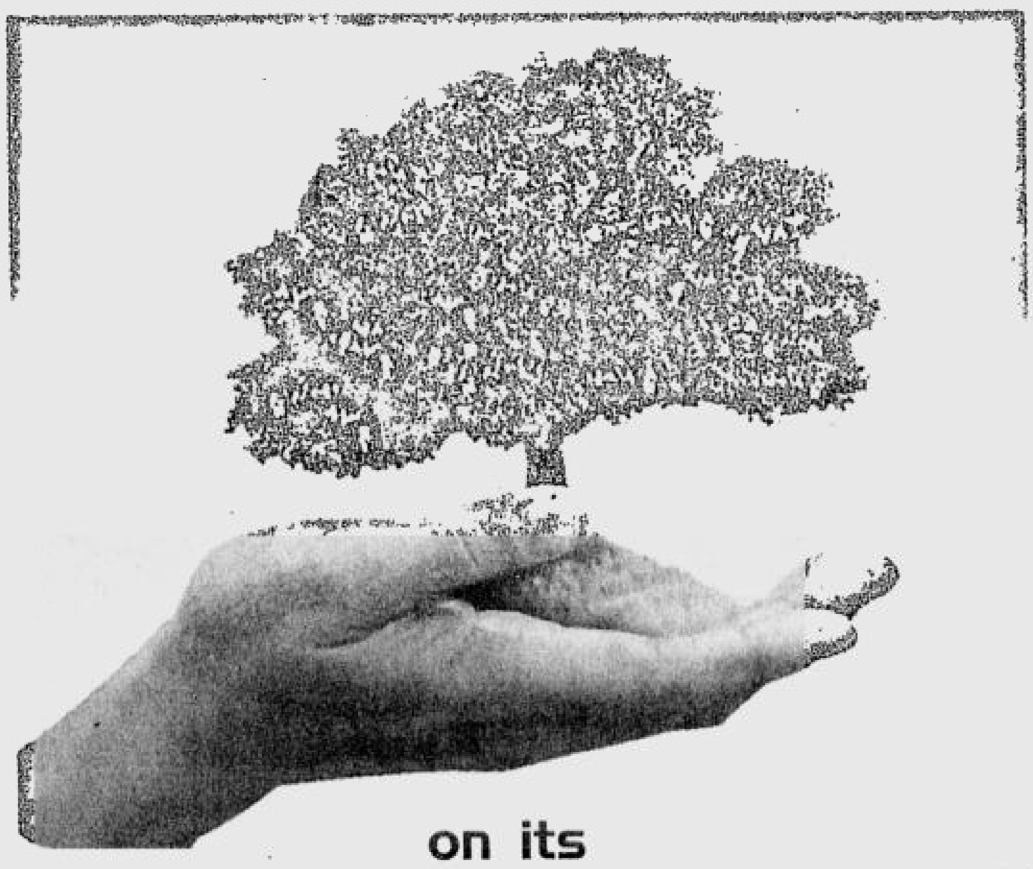

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# Council sees abortion in bill

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Dumaguete City council has declared its opposition to House Bill 4110, saying that its passage would legalize abortion in the Philippines.

Dumaguete Vice Mayor William Ablong said that while the word "abortion" is not found in the draft of the bill, one can just "read between the lines."

He said that HB 4110 allows abortion because it allows women to "decide freely" for themselves in accordance with their religious convictions, cultural beliefs, and the demands of responsible parenthood.

"This means that one can have the right to terminate pregnancy," Ablong said.

Ablong also said that HB 4110 also seeks to provide couples and individuals access to safe, affordable and quality reproductive health care services.

"It does not distinguish whether even unmarried couples and minors could take advantage of this provision," he said.

Ablong, who sponsored a resolution that was passed by the City Council against House Bill 4110, said the bill was anti-women because "contraceptives are anti-women."

"Why is the government promoting artificial family planning methods more than natural methods, is it because there is funding for the artificial methods?" Ablong asked.

Negros Oriental Rep. Emilio Macias II, one of the authors of HB 4110, earlier questioned Ablong's opposition to HB 4110, saying the vice mayor has not even read the controversial bill. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### 8 missing in boat mishap

LEGAZPI CITY—Eight persons are missing after a fishing boat capsized near the Butawan Island, Siruma, Camarines Sur last Tuesday. The fishing boat, Kaysey2, was sailing toward Cantor Island in Barangay Apuao, Mercedes, Camarines Norte when it capsized due to strong water current.

Senior Supt. Florencio Magundayao said 23 crewmen were on board the boat owned by Serapio Villapando of Barangay Roque in Mercedes and piloted by a certain Henry Aceron. Magundayao said local fishermen rescued 15 unidentified fishermen along the coast of Barangay Butawan and Barangay Paniman, Caramoan on Wednesday. Police were still conducting search-and-rescue operations for the missing crewmen.

*Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### 5 wounded in encounter

BALAYAN, Batangas—Two members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit, two New People's Army rebels and a civilian were hurt in an encounter between Army soldiers and the NPA in Barangay Tactac, this town on Wednesday, police said. Jonathan Bayupan, 28, a resident of the village, was hit in the right leg and was rushed to the Manuel Lopez Memorial Hospital in this town. NPA members identified as Andres Pedraza and Rufino Cahayon were also reportedly wounded in the 15-minute encounter. The rebels escaped toward Barangays Malibu and Palincaro of nearby Lian town carrying with them Pedraza and Cahayon. Recovered from the encounter site were three backpacks containing communist documents, personal belongings, camouflage uniforms, Alcatel cellphones and a charger.

*Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### New Batangas cop chief

BATANGAS CITY—Batangas police director Senior Supt. Rolando Lorenzo turned over the command to incoming provincial director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay Thursday in ceremonies in Camp General Miguel Malvar in Barangay Alangilan, this city. Lorenzo, 47, left behind a track record of the biggest drug bust in police history that led to the seizure of a ton of shabu worth P3 billion in Lipa City on April 30, 2001. He also solved the province's most celebrated cases such as the assassination of Tanauan City mayor and Lakas-NUCD gubernatorial candidate Cesar Platon on May 7, 2001, the murder of Lian town mayor Sixto "Baby" Vergara on Feb. 18, 2001, the kidnapping of Dr. Arturo Boa, and the confiscation of bombs from New People's Army rebels in Sto. Tomas town. Magtibay, 47, from San Juan, Batangas, said he could be more in coordination with the people now that he is the provincial director.

*Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Napolcom director slain

COTABATO CITY—The provincial director of the National Police Commission in Maguindanao was gunned down Saturday by a still unidentified assailant just outside his residence in Buluan town, according to police on Tuesday. Supt. Alberto Salvo, chief of the Crime and Investigation Detection Group in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said Mustapha Sampulna died on the spot when the suspect shot him from behind with a Browning automatic rifle. The report said Sampulna was fetching water from a public pump when he was attacked. Salvo [illegible] police were still trying to establish the killer's identity and the motive for the killing.

*Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## NEW TACTIC

# Army recruits 1,000 Bicolanos to fight rebels

NAGA CITY—The Armed Forces of the Philippines has devised a new tactic to fight the insurgency in the Bicol region: It would recruit Bicolanos to fight fellow Bicolanos who are in the communist movement.

It has activated last week a new Army unit called the 9th Infantry Battalion (IB) Separate that would be comprised exclusively of Army combatants who are natives of Bicol.

During the activation ceremonies at Camp Canuto, Pili, Camarines Sur, the AFP leadership has announced the continuing recruitment of at least 1,000 Bicolanos to join the 9th IB Separate dubbed as "Urgollo" (the local term for pride).

The recruitment of purely Bicolanos to "Urgollo" is the new tactic that would be tried here in order to increase the advantage of government forces against New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas.

Major Gen. Roy Kyamko has announced that Brig. Gen. Santiago Brigido shall head the "Urgollo."

The armed combatants of the NPA guerrillas were estimated from 600 to 700 dispersed in the six provinces of the region.

Senior Supt. Roberto Rogavilla, Camarines Sur police director, said the police would support the Army's counterinsurgency operations. The police was tasked with closely coordinating with the Army during planned offensives against NPA guerrillas in Bicol.

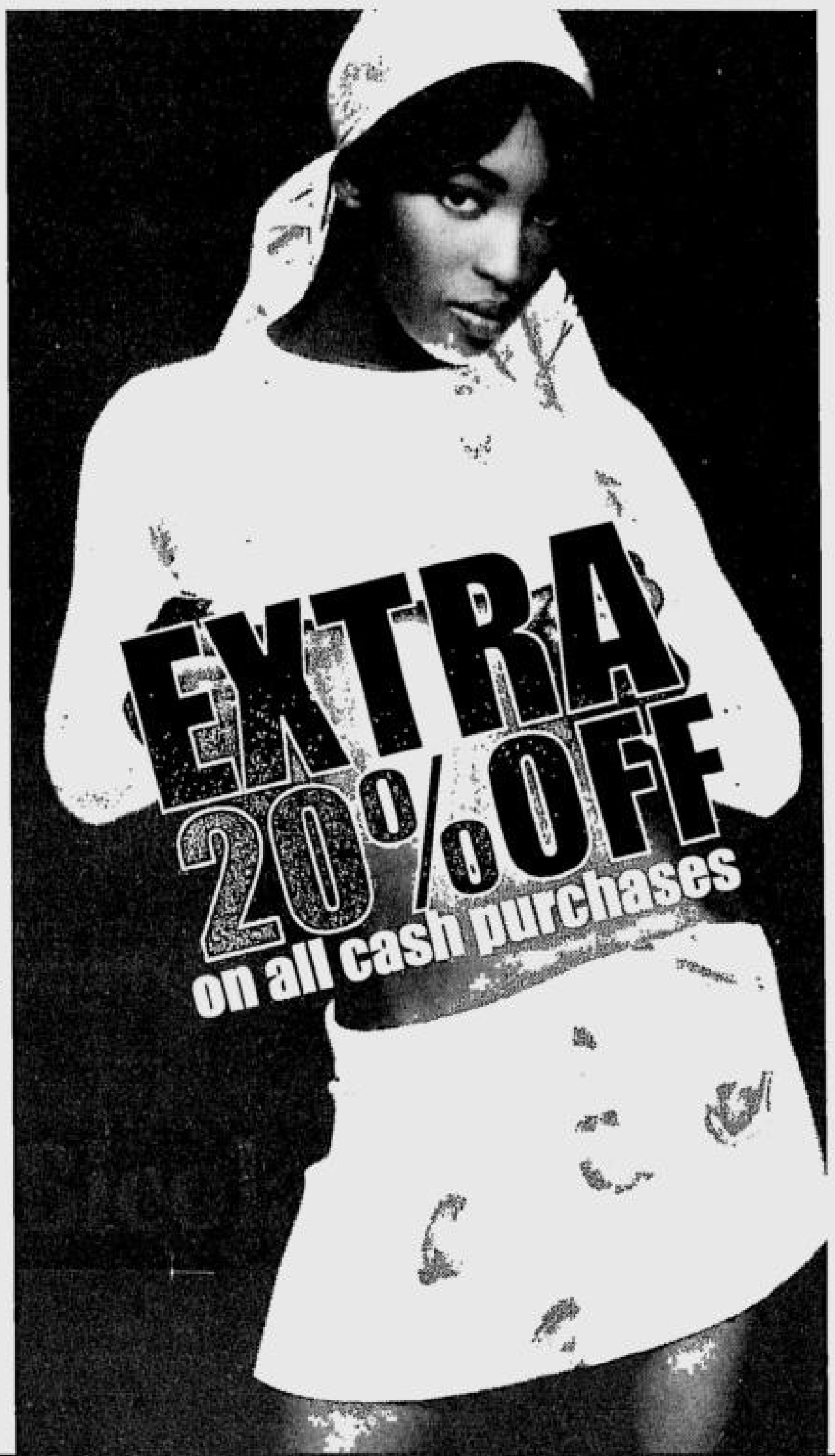
The creation of the "Urgollo" is the government's response to the problems of development in Bicol which former Bicol Police Director Enrique Galang presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo last April.

Galang reported during a joint meeting of the Regional Development Council and Cabinet that the NPA rebel operations hindered infrastructure projects.

He said the NPA guerrillas destroyed heavy equipment of private contractors that consequently brought toll to the delivery of basic services in far-flung areas.

The new Army tactic comes amidst warnings by Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio Rosal of more military offensives by NPA rebels as the local communists rejected the government's amnesty program.

"This amnesty program is an insult to the revolutionary consciousness of every rising Filipino and member of the revolutionary movement. This is a trap that aims to stifle the growth of freedom fighters," Rosal told the INQUIRER. *Juan Escandor Jr. and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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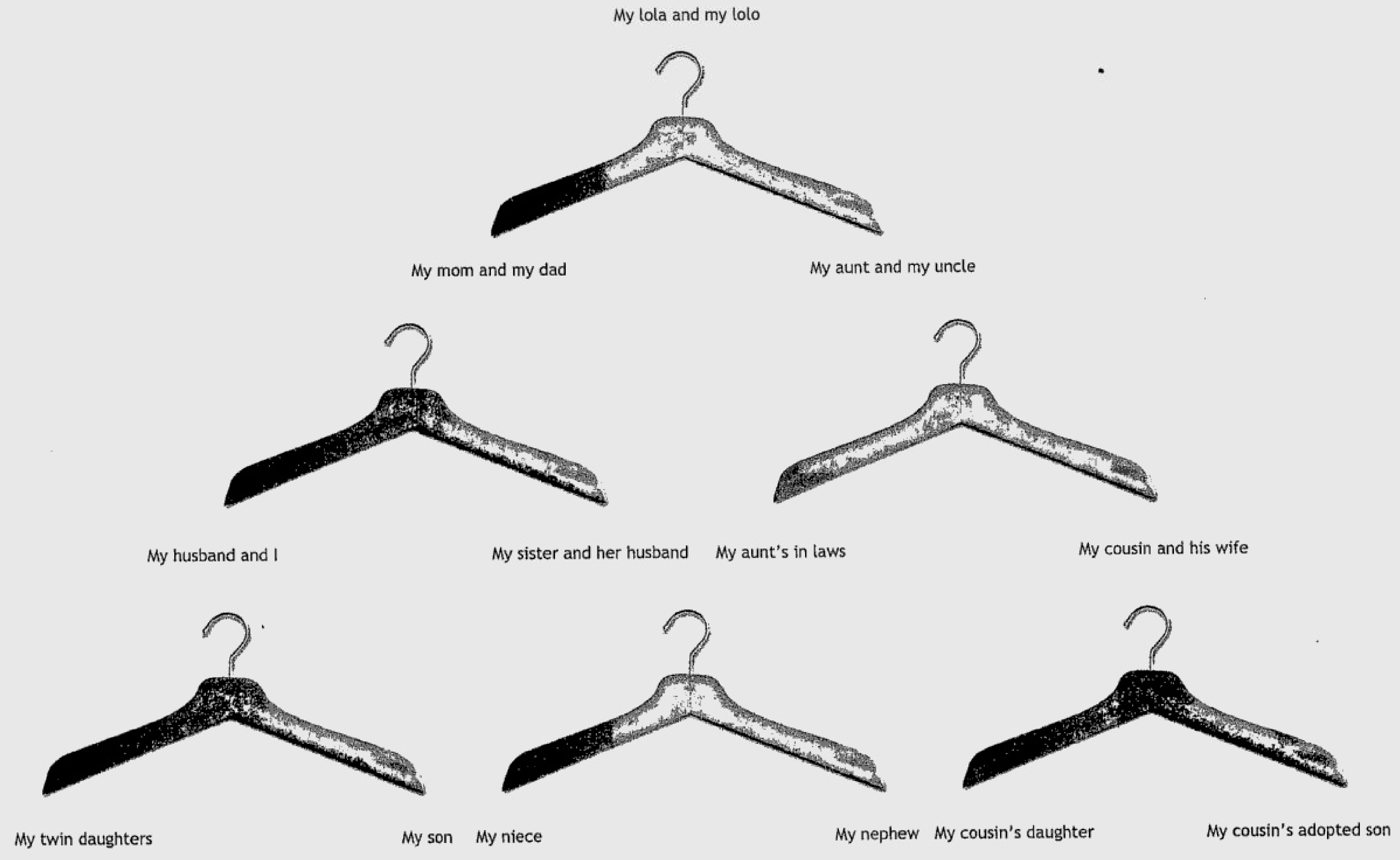

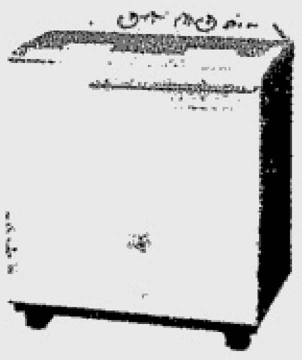

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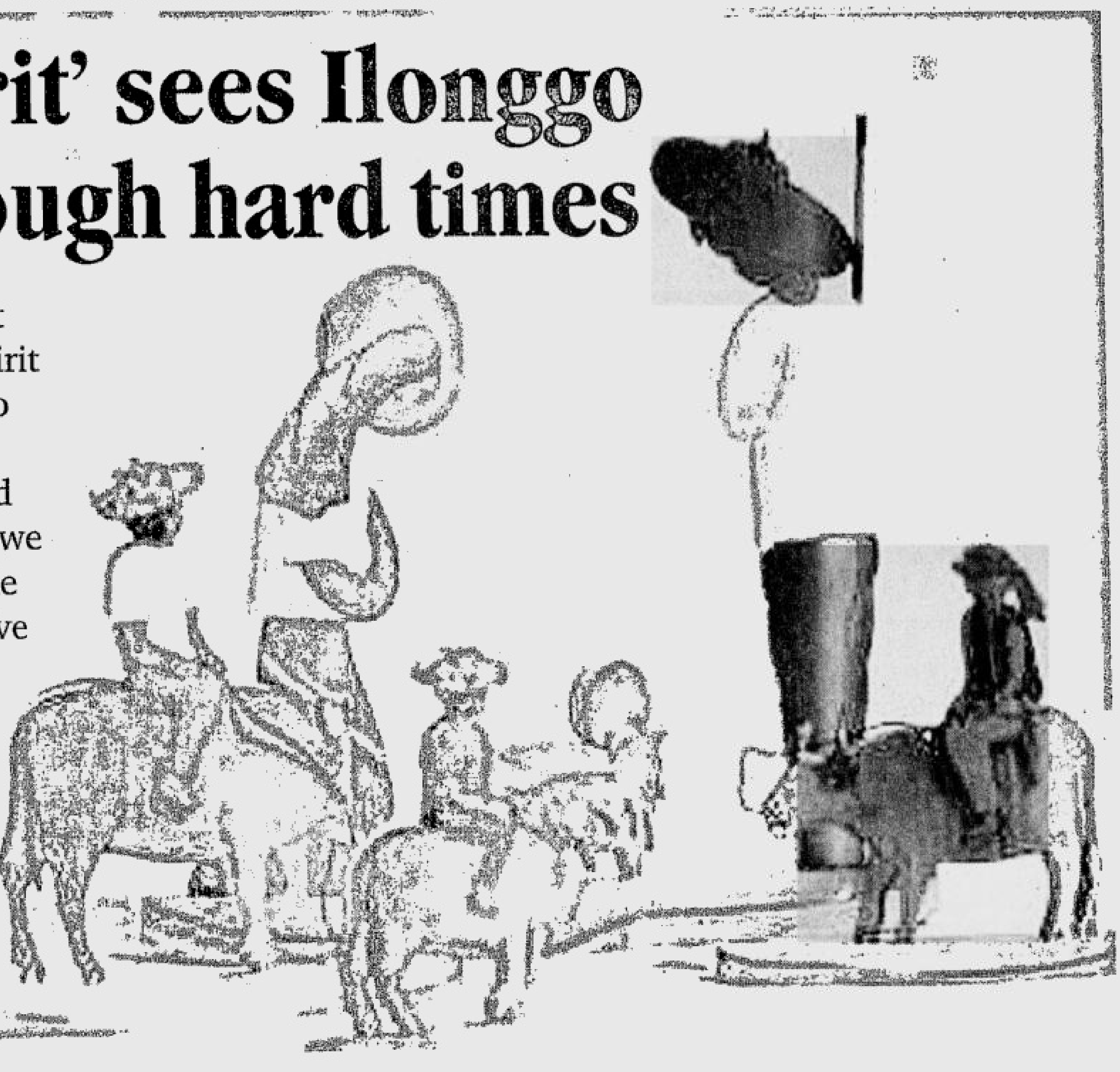
# 'Christmas spirit' sees Ilonggo producers through hard times

By Hazel P. Villa
*Iloilo City*

> 'You may say that the Christmas spirit is with us Ilonggo producers the whole year round in the sense that we have camaraderie in our united drive to improve our respective products.'



**ILONGGO producers prepare early for the Christmas season with products like the painted bamboo nativity scene exported by CM Bamboocraft.** JOHN MICHAEL P. AVELINO

JANUARY is nine months away from October, the most important month for Ilonggo producers and 11 months away from December, the "spending" and happiest month for Filipinos and yet, members of the Ilonggo Producers Association (IPA) have started preparing for the Yuletide season since October.

This means attending product development and packaging workshops, brainstorming on marketing strategies, attending association meetings and seeing to it that their products come up to high quality standards demanded by the export market and the discriminating taste of local buyers.

"You may say that the Christmas spirit is with us Ilonggo producers the whole year round in the sense that we have camaraderie in our united drive to improve our respective products. This leads to quality stuff that we hope to sell briskly at the start of the Christmas season, as well as a sense of fulfillment that we enjoy what we are doing," said Della Jarantilla, president of the IPA and chair of the Ilonggo Festival Foundation Inc. (IFFI).

The IPA and its 50-plus members had to rely on the "Christmas spirit" and the never-say-die attitude since these played a big role in surmounting the financial hardships brought about by the Asian crisis of 1997 and now, the Sept. 11, 2001 fallout, Jarantilla added.

On the other hand, Valerie Maravilla; past president of the IPA and president of the IFFI, said it is the same attitude of forging through, despite obstacles, that has seen the Ilonggo Festival to its eighth straight year of showcasing products from the islands of Panay and Guimaras.

### Ilonggo Festival

The annual Ilonggo Festival held every October in Manila is the most important trade show for Ilonggo producers because this is one opportunity for them to collectively show their products to individual buyers and exporters, who with their orders, have kept the heads of IPA members above turbulent financial waters.

Jarantilla said this year's Ilonggo Festival theme, "Pride of the Panay Islands" aims to "discover and rediscover" the unique products of Panay Island and the other islands surrounding it.

"You will notice that 'Panay Islands' has an 's' in it. This is because we at the IPA are encouraging other businessmen in neighboring places like Boracay Island in Aklan and the other islands surrounding Antique, Capiz, Iloilo and Guimaras to also show their products to the rest of the world," said Jarantilla, general manager of the family-owned Burgos Bakery in Iloilo that makes pastries and cakes for the health conscious.

This year's Ilonggo Festival was held at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The products for sale and on exhibit were delicacies and processed food; export-quality novelty items, home accessories, hand-woven products, embroideries, ceramics, shell craft, natural and organic products and holiday decors.

Also on exhibit were live plants, herbs, antiques, gemstones and information on resorts in the Panay Islands.

Maravilla said that after the IPA's series of product development seminars that started four years ago, buyers have been taking note of the improved products.

"Ilonggo products gain points on uniqueness, good designs and quality work. This has proved to be appealing to those who would like to gift their family and friends with unique items that could not be found anywhere else but in the Panay Islands," said Maravilla, whose family is into agribusiness, bamboo production and real estate.

Maravilla and Jarantilla said the number of participants in last month's exhibit were fewer compared to previous years because the IPA has strictly implemented quality control for products on exhibit.

"In terms of exports, we're gunning for quality and not quantity in view of the fact that we can't compete with other countries that have mechanized their production," said Jarantilla, a former principal in National Healthcare Consulting of the international accounting firm Ernst and Young LLP based in Cleveland, USA.

### Stiff competition

Diosdado Cadena Jr., DTI-Iloilo director, said Ilonggo products face stiff competition from other Asian countries due to cheaper cost of labor and production technology and thus, Ilonggo producers have to look at other marketing strategies in order to compete.

"Since we have this disadvantage, we purpose to target the high-end market which call for excellent quality and designs. Our competitive advantage in good designs and quality products can be exploited to the optimum," said Cadena.

He noted that participants in this year's Ilonggo Festival had become more competitive in terms of product design, packaging and quality geared for the high-end export market in food, furniture, gifts, toys, hardware and garments.

Both Maravilla and Jarantilla said that some IPA members, though intent on getting into the export market, have contented themselves with accepting only those orders that their current business set-ups could satisfy.

"Ilonggo producers have surely made a name for quality and stylish products catering to those who have discriminating taste," said Maravilla.

Jarantilla, on the other hand, is concerned that the "Christmas spirit" should shine through in what the IPA does.

For Jarantilla, Christmas is a year long affair as she herself celebrates Christmas in July when she still worked in the United States, just like some Americans who longed for the cool comforts of December during one of the hottest months in America.

"The bottom line is the Christmas spirit. Those who (bought) products at the Ilonggo Festival (were) assured of quality work that can be conversation pieces for its unique designs and materials," she said. "It can help too that the buyers know the items they bought are products of the 'Christmas spirit' which for us at the IPA is cooperative team work and fulfillment in what we are doing."

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# Too late a holiday

## BACOLOD EXCHANGE

*Ninfa R. Leonarda*

NOVEMBER 5 was an official holiday for Negros Occidental. It commemorated the day in 1898 when local military forces led by Generals Juan Araneta of Bago and Aniceto Lacson of Talisay tricked the Spanish governor of the province, Isidro de Castro, into surrendering by mounting *sawali* rolls to look like cannons and threatening to attack the capital.

The day has since been immortalized as the historic Cinco de Noviembre, and a few years ago, was declared an official non-working holiday in the province.

Since the day fell, this time, on a Tuesday, and "sandwiched" between it and Sunday was Nov. 4, a Monday, Gov. Joseph Marañon had asked Malacañang to declare Nov. 4 also a holiday. Nothing was heard about the request so Capitol announced that workers had to go back to work Monday, even if that was also the day that transportation groups had scheduled a whole-day strike.

And so everybody went to work Monday, only to learn at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon that the President had actually approved the holiday!

The question now bugging both officials and employees is whether they would be entitled to double pay, having rendered service during what had turned out to be a holiday. Local officials showed some hesitation, since the order had reportedly been signed Nov. 2 and no provisions may have been made for the payment of extra pay.

As of this writing, clarifications were still being sought, and workers are waiting.

### Terrorists!

The declaration from several countries that classified the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army as terrorist groups have added a new dimension to the nature of governance in Bacolod City.

For more than a year now, sidewalk vendors who were evicted from city streets have been complaining that they were being terrorized by people from City Hall formerly known as high-ranking members of the CPP-NPA in the province.

Lately, members of the city police, too, have disclosed to other officials that they are virtually run by the same characters who seem to have the complete confidence of the mayor.

"We are being run by terrorists," a police officer said, albeit jokingly.

If these people used to be rebels, then they are still using terrorism that they used to practice in the city, he added.

### Terrorism, too

At City Hall, members of the city council and the mayor continue to terrorize each other by filing cases against each other all the time.

A few weeks ago, the councilors sent information to the Office of the Ombudsman, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and even to the Office of the President about the deal Mayor Luzviminda Valdez had sanctioned with a private company called Logic Gate Enterprises that she had allowed to operate an automated clearance machine charging P60 more than the government allowed fee, and using up police space, facilities, manpower and electricity.

The councilors claim that the company was granted the privileges without their knowledge or approval.

When the city council passed an ordinance that would regulate the hiring of casuals and avoid the still unresolved problems of unpaid workers whose appointment by the mayor had been done without appropriations, the mayor promptly vetoed it, claiming that it encroached on her authority.

The ordinance had been passed almost unanimously, with only the newly elected president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, the mayor's bet for the post, not signing it. Just as promptly, the council overrode her veto.

Valdez has vowed to take the case to court.

### Overpass

Another brewing battle is the one between Valdez and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella.

As soon as the overpass at the city's main highway, Lacson Street, was completed, Valdez had her favorite slogan and her name prominently painted on it, to the reported consternation of the owners of Robinsons Place that had financed the structure. Immediately, Puentevella hit Valdez and insisted on having the slogan and the name of Valdez removed.

But Bacolod and Negros Occidental residents woke up one morning to see the huge grinning portrait of Puentevella together with that of President Macapagal-Arroyo on the very place where Valdez's propaganda used to be.

Both Valdez and Vice Mayor Ramiro Garcia protested, calling the pictures an obstruction and claimed they would have them removed.

Puentevella, in turn, challenged them to try and take them off, saying the President had even said, "Wow, *ang ganda!*" when he showed her the picture of the overpass.

### Judging time again

In the meantime, city officials and workers, led by the mayor herself, are frantically hauling away the tons and tons of garbage that had been piling up for months on streets and subdivision roads, over the complaints of indignant taxpayers.

The reason for the frenzy: it's again judging time for the Clean and Green contest and, as already proven in the past year when it won, it's only the last month that counts anyway.

So now we're poised to grab that trophy again, in the same way.

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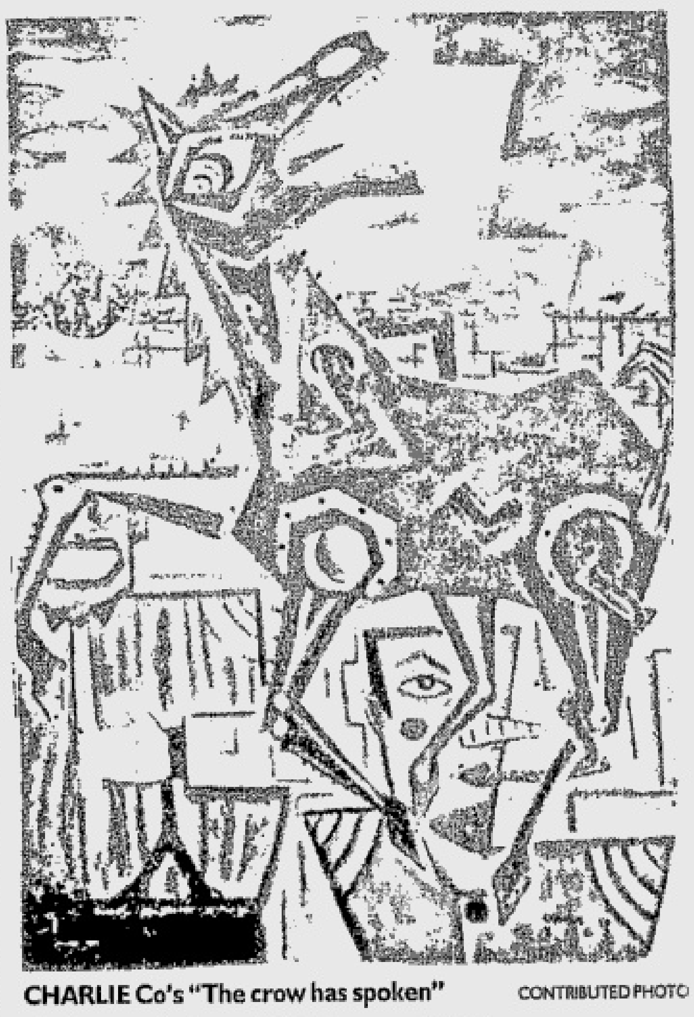
# 'Moro-Moro' is Negrense artist's third exhibit in Australia

By Carla P. Gomez
*Bacolod City*



**CHARLIE Co's "The crow has spoken"** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IF YOU happen to be in Sydney, Australia, go to the Ray Hughes Gallery along Surrey Hill.

On exhibit there are 21 paintings of Negrense artist Charlie Co. Titled "Moro-Moro," the exhibit opened last Oct. 29 and will run until Nov. 20.

The exhibit is jointly sponsored by Balay Taliambong and Metrobank Foundation. It had Philippine Consul General to Australia Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson as special guest during the opening.

A much-lauded, much-traveled artist, Co is a 1990 recipient of the Cultural Center of the Philippine's 13 Artists Award and a 1999 Philip Morris Asian Art Award Juror's Choice.

He represented the Philippines in both the second Asia Pacific trienniale at Brisbane and the Sao Paolo bienniale in 1997, the 1996 2nd International Clay Symposium and Exhibit in Toki City, Japan and the Japan Foundation-Asean Culture Center sponsored "Asia and Modernism" exhibit in Akasaka, Tokyo in 1995, among others.

"Moro-Moro," which presents Co's darkening and deepening vision of Armageddon, is the artist's third Australian exhibit.

His first, titled "White Series," was in 1989 at the Braxland Gallery in Sydney while his second with Lyn Brunet, "Have You Seen the Crows?" was in 2001 at the University of Newcastle in Ouirimbah, New South Wales where he was artist-in-residence last year.

# GMA to revamp Cabinet on Nov. 30

From page A1

the end of the year. But a source close to a Cabinet member supposedly facing transfer to another department said it would be in March at the latest.

"(The reshuffle) is about both service and image," said a Palace insider.

Another ranking official said the reshuffle was intended to demonstrate the President's "resolve in addressing the country's problems."

"Those perceived to be corrupt and non-performing will get the ax," said the official.

But yet another source cited fears within the President's circle of trusted officials and friends that the public would view the reshuffle as a mere "cosmetic job."

### 'Promotion'

The Department of Agriculture has the second biggest budget among the departments, and the sources said Braganza's planned transfer there was considered a "promotion."

They said the President wanted the agriculture portfolio given to Braganza because she was planning to focus next on improving the country's food production to achieve her objective of "food on every table."

"He (Braganza) would be the President's extension at the (agriculture) department," said one source.

Montemayor has supposedly been offered the agrarian reform portfolio but was reluctant to accept it.

The insiders described the President as unsatisfied with the low-key Montemayor "management style." They refused to elaborate beyond saying that he had failed to meet the "performance objectives" set for him by Ms Macapagal.

Montemayor, however, has supposedly expressed preference for his current post.

Lina had promised to quit his job at the Department of Interior and Local Government if he failed to put a stop to "jueteng," an illegal numbers game popular in the provinces.

"If in one year the campaign (against illegal gambling) proves futile, I am willing to put my neck on the line," Lina said during the National Summit Against Illegal Gambling hosted by the DILG last April 2.

Lina subsequently stirred controversy when he fired seven police chiefs, including those of Metro Manila and Central Visayas, who were perceived to have failed to stop jueteng operations in their areas of responsibility.

But seven months later jueteng continues to thrive particularly in Pampanga, the President's home province.

Then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson's "Juetengate" marked the beginning of the end for then President Joseph Estrada, whom Singson accused of receiving protection money from operators of the numbers game.

The insiders said Lina would be replaced by Mendoza, who was chief of the Philippine National Police when jueteng made a comeback following Estrada's ouster in 2001.

Aside from Braganza, another supposed candidate for the transportation portfolio is housing chief Mike Defensor.

### Up and down

The supposed planned reshuffle comes in the wake of the President's roller-coaster popularity rating.

The Ibon Foundation Databank and Research Center conducted a survey in January that showed her with a negative 8.72 satisfaction rating nationwide.

In the same month, Pulse Asia released survey results indicating that more and more Filipinos felt that the quality of their lives had deteriorated. It showed that public approval for the President fell by 6 percentage points from 63 percent in October to 57 percent in December last year.

A Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey of net public satisfaction in the President's performance during the first quarter of this year showed her rating falling from 27 points in November last year to 16 in April this year.

Another survey conducted by Pulse Asia said the number of people who gave the President "small trust" had increased compared with the number of people who gave her "big trust."

According to the Pulse Asia survey, Ms Macapagal's net trust rating slipped from 35 in the last quarter of 2001 to 23 during the first three months of this year.

But last August, the SWS said 54.9 percent of 1,200 respondents polled on Aug. 6-9 were satisfied with her performance, and 26.5 percent were dissatisfied.

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# PDI president wins Aurelio Periquet award

From page A1

Romualdez and Lim will be honored on Dec. 13 during the Philippine Business Conference.

### Learning the ropes

Romualdez joined the INQUIRER in 1993 as an executive assistant to the president. She learned the newspaper business from the ground up, having gone through every position and department as an apprentice. After three years, she became the executive vice president. In 1998, she became president of the company.

As president and CEO, Romualdez directs the operations of the company and is responsible for corporate strategic planning, management development, succession planning, performance management organizational design, corporate policymaking and organizational development. She also plays a key role in network building particularly with regard to the business community and industry organizations.

It is also through her leadership that the INQUIRER continues to publish agenda-setting stories that help bring about changes in government policy as well as move the public into action.

Romualdez also holds directorships in Golden Pizza Inc., Golden Donuts Inc., Metrobakers, Corinthian Commercial Corp., Lexmedia Realty and Alliance Media Printing, among others.

At the INQUIRER, Romualdez is plain "Sandy" even to janitors.

### Volunteer work

In 2001, she was appointed Commissioner for Media and Arts of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women. She was also appointed co-chair of Tabang Mindanaw, a humanitarian project instituted by multisectoral groups to address the needs of indigenous peoples and the victims of the conflict in Mindanao.

Romualdez is currently the president of Hands On Manila Foundation Inc., a nonprofit organization that recruits, educates and coordinates a network of volunteers for diverse community projects within the Greater Manila area.

Another project that she initiated was the Children's Hour, a fund-raising campaign that aims to address the educational, health and emotional needs of children who suffer from poverty, abuse and neglect. It calls upon employees to donate an hour's worth of their earnings at the end of the year for the benefit of these abused children.

Romualdez also initiated the Newspaper Recycling Drive, a campaign that involves the collection and purchase of old newspapers and tabloids. Its main goal is to save trees and promote the use of recycled paper.

She was the Ten Most Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardee for Public Service in Print Media and Advocacy in 2001. She was a Best Woman in Business awardee of the Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines in 1999.

### Pillar awardee

Lim, on the other hand, ventured into agriculture with the establishment of Hybrid Rice Seed Enterprises. Under his leadership, he successfully maneuvered the research and development, production and marketing of the hybrid rice seed program in the country.

Today, Lim sits as chair and CEO of Sterling Paper Group of Companies, which has become a diversified conglomerate engaged in manufacturing of paper products, importation and distribution of school supplies, furniture, retailing, real estate development and agriculture.

Previous awardees are Feliciano Torres, Vicente Padilla, Antonio Ng, Delbert Sia, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr., Jean Henri Lhuillier, Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. and Lance Gokongwei.

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| Iloilo - Davao | 2199 | 3195 | 31% | Manila - Tacloban | 1999 | 2569 | 22% |
| Manila - Bacolod | 1799 | 2449 | 26% | Manila - Zamboanga | 2079 | 3239 | 35% |
| Manila - Butuan | 2349 | 3239 | 27% | Zamboanga - Davao | 2049 | 2319 | 12% |

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EDWIN BACASMAS

**PRESIDENT** Macapagal receives Francis X. Taylor, US State Department coordinator for counterterrorism who's here to attend the International Conference on Terrorism ongoing at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

# Gloria proposes 'Balikatan' for cops

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is proposing the conduct of a Balikatan-like joint exercise for the police forces of the Philippines and the United States.

Ms Macapagal made the proposal during a meeting with Ambassador Francis Taylor, the US government's coordinator for counterterrorism, in Malacañang yesterday.

"She also proposed the holding of an intelligence gathering exercise, in the same manner that joint training exercises are being held for Filipino and US soldiers," a Palace statement said.

The statement did not say whether Taylor made any commitment regarding Ms Macapagal's proposal.

Malacañang said the President and Taylor discussed "ways and means of strengthening the counterterrorism capabilities of the Philippines and other countries in Southeast Asia." They also "talked about increased sharing of intelligence, the rooting out of terrorist cells, tightening of border security and disrupting of terrorist money flows."

Taylor heads the US delegation to the International Conference on Terrorism and Tourism Recovery.

## Summit a farce

Around 70 protesters staged a rally in front of the Makati Shangri-La, denouncing the two-day conference as a farce.

Bayan Muna Party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said the summit would accomplish nothing.

"(National Security Adviser Roilo) Golez is dreaming if he believes he can stop terrorism," Beltran said in a speech during the rally. "Will he be able to defeat imperialist terrorism? The US is the No. 1 terrorist."

He added that even if government officials adopt measures to combat terrorism, they would still be unable to stop Americans from virtually having control over the country.

Beltran and other militant groups said the United States and the Philippine government actually pose the biggest terrorist threat to the country because their actions do nothing but oppress the poor. *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Leila Salaverria, AFP*

# Bad news, not travel advisories, hurt tourism

From page A1

and often inappropriately worded travel advisories. Governments have a responsibility to advise their citizens on matters of security, but the advice should be carefully and correctly worded so as not to create wrong impressions," De Villers said.

"For these reasons, the WTO global code of ethics that has now been recognized by the United Nations lay down clear guidelines on how governments should manage travel advisories," the WTO executive said.

During their annual summit in Cambodia this month, leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) had complained about US travel advisories which they said painted their countries as unsafe.

In her speech at the conference later last night, President Macapagal reiterated her call on Western countries to stop issuing travel advisories against Southeast Asian countrties, saying these "discourage tourism and investments."

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, co-chair of the international conference, said Western countries do not get the treatment they are now giving Southeast Asia.

"You don't see advisories being given for countries in Europe despite terrorist attacks that kill scores of people in those countries," Gordon said.

"That's not the Asian way," the tourism secretary said.

Gordon said that while issuing travel advisories is a duty of countries to their citizens, embassies and foreign ministries must realize that such travel notices work to the interests of the terrorists.

"These advisories whet the appetite of terrorists because it passes on the message that their activities are getting the desired effects," Gordon said.

He expressed gratitude that China has not issued a travel advisory on the Philippines and other countries in the region. Seven million Chinese traveled overseas in the first half of 2002 alone.

During the conference, senior tourism officials said they remained confident of an Asian tourism recovery in the wake of the Bali bomb attack and continuing fears of other terrorist actions in the region. But they said nations must work together to check further terror attacks and to assure the public that it is still safe to visit these countries.

# Top Bali blast suspect RP-bound when nabbed

From page A1

Amrozi or M. Rozi had two one-way tickets for the Indonesian city of Manado when he was arrested by local police in Bali. But the 40-year-old suspect has no known connections in Manado, Pastika said, and could have been on his way to possible "links" in Mindanao. A bomb exploded outside the Philippine consulate in Manado on the same day as the Bali blasts.

Pastika, who spoke on the sidelines of the ongoing International Conference on Terrorism at the Makati Shangri-La hotel, said Amrozi had led police to a house in Bali where they found residue of the explosives used, as well as the two tickets.

"When we searched his house, we found two tickets to Manado, the northern capital city of Sulawesi. (It is) very close to the Philippines so we suspect that there is a link," Pastika said.

The tickets were dated Nov. 7; Amrozi was arrested on Nov. 5.

Pastika's announcement boosted suspicions that there are indeed Philippine-based groups which are allied with the militant Jemaah Islamiya, which in turn is believed to be part of the al-Qaida terror network.

Pastika said five to 10 other suspects remain at large. "These people are dangerous as long as they are alive," he said.

Pastika said that apart from Amrozi's arrest, Indonesian authorities were on the verge of making another breakthrough in the investigation.

"(They may have already) found the place where they may have built the bomb because they found the residue of the material of the bomb in their house so they are now searching more," Pastika said.

## Confession

But in a later press briefing, Pastika said there was yet no direct link between the Bali bombings and JI.

"Up to now, we cannot link the act with the so-called Jemaah Islamiah," he said.

"But there are indications that the Islamic school (run by Amrozi and his brother) was visited by Abu Bakar Bashir (the alleged JI leader) six months ago."

The detained suspect's "ideological background is the teaching of Bashir," he added. "He's one of the men who learned about jihad (or holy war) from Bashir."

But the police spokesperson in Indonesia was more categorical.

Brig. Gen. Edward Aritonang yesterday said Amrozi has admitted that he knows both Bashir and Riduan Isamudin. Bashir has been called the group's spiritual leader and Isamudin, also known as Hambali, as its operations chief.

Other intelligence officials in Bali, speaking on condition of anonymity, also said Amrozi admitted under interrogation that he met personally with the two clerics.

The officials said Amrozi admitted that he bought the materials used in the bombs and has confessed to taking part in a bomb blast at the Jakarta Stock Exchange that killed 15 people in 2000. He also acknowledged involvement in the bombing of the Philippine ambassador's residence in Jakarta in 2000 and the bombing of the Manado consulate on Oct. 12, the officials said.

Pastika said Amrozi is an avid follower of Bashir and reportedly went to school in Malaysia with Isamudin, JI's No. 2 man.

Amrozi's wife, said Pastika, came from the same village as Fathur Roman Al-Ghozi. Al-Ghozi is a confessed JI member who was caught in Quiapo, Manila last January. He has been tagged in the Rizal Day bombings that killed scores of people on Dec. 30, 2000.

Indonesian police recently arrested Bashir on charges of involvement in a string of church bombings three years ago. But while Pastika said Hambali appeared to have had a hand in the Bali bombing, he is now outside Indonesia and has a successor that the police official would not identify.

## Wrong targets

Pastika said the ammonium nitrate used in the making of the explosives were bought in Surabaya.

The suspects also bought explosive ingredients in central Java. Pastika said they used Malaysian ringgits and Singaporean dollars in making the purchase, something which points to further linkages in other southeast Asian countries, he said.

"They planned (for) about two months (and) started early September . . . (They) wanted to kill as many Americans so they tried to find where the Americans gather. That is in Bali but they were not as many as the Australians (who) have a big number," Pastika said.

"They hated the Americans but (hit) the wrong targets in Bali," the police official added.

As for the other suspects: "We have their names already," Pastika said. "We know their identities. What the police are doing now is searching throughout the country. We understand that they bought the van that they used. They bought it from someone in Central Java. And buying this vehicle, they used Malaysian ringgit and Singapore dollars. That indicates this has a link with Malaysia, Singapore and other countries in Southeast Asia."

Pastika said officials believe that Amrozi met at some point in Malaysia with explosives expert Al-Ghozi. He led police to more than a ton of buried TNT that he said was to have been used in bombings against Western targets in Singapore.

Pastika told reporters the explosives were turned into a car bomb using a Mitsubishi L300 van whose ownership was also traced to Amrozi.

Amrozi was arrested Tuesday in a small village on the eastern section of Java island, where he and his brothers operated an Islamic school, Pastika said.

But a friend of Amrozi's in Java island described the suspect as a sociable person who holds no radical views of Islam.

Amrozi is an amateur mechanic who runs a motorbike repair workshop and sometimes sells used cars or cell phones to make a living, said Muhammad Zakaria, who heads the Al-Islam Islamic boarding school founded by Amrozi's brother. *AFP, AP, Reuters*

**GEN. MADE MANGKU PASTIKA,** in charge of the multinational investigation of Bali bombings: They wanted to kill as many Americans but hit the wrong targets in Bali. ERIK ARAZAS

# 7 cups of coffee a day keep doctors away

From page A1

"This is the first study that comes up with the idea that coffee could actually be beneficial for type 2 diabetes," said Rob van Dam of the university's department of nutrition and health.

Whether it's filter, cappuccino, latte or espresso, coffee contains minerals such as magnesium, potassium and other micronutrients that have health benefits.

Van Dam and his team do not know which of the compounds in coffee are involved or how they work against diabetes, but when they compared coffee consumption with the risk of type 2, or adult onset diabetes, they found the more people drank, the lower their risk.

Individuals who drank seven or more cups of coffee a day, were 50 percent less likely to develop the disease. Fewer cups a day had less of an impact.

"For most people it is not bad to drink moderate amounts of coffee," Van Dam said.

But he said the findings, which are reported in the British medical weekly The Lancet and need to be confirmed in other studies, do not mean people should drink large amounts of coffee every day.

## Coffee risks

Studies have shown drinking too much coffee can raise cholesterol levels and increase the risk of osteoporosis, or brittle bone disease, in some people, according to Van Dam.

"It's quite an individual choice to drink coffee or not," Van Dam said in an interview.

But he added if scientists knew more about the active components in coffee, it might be possible to make a type of coffee or another product with more of the beneficial compounds and fewer of the detrimental ones.

Diabetes is a chronic disease caused by a deficiency or lack of insulin. Type 2 diabetes is caused by an inability to make enough, or properly to use insulin. Type 1 sufferers do not produce enough insulin and need daily injections.

Most people with Type 2 diabetes are overweight or obese.

Excess weight is the most common and avoidable risk factor for the illness, which experts estimate will afflict 220 million people by the year 2010.

The evidence on coffee consumption and diabetes comes from a database of the health and lifestyle of 17,000 Dutch men and women, assessed by the Netherlands' National Institute for Public Health and Environment.

Factors such as smoking, ratio of body fat and alcoholic consumption were taken into account, in order to make a fair comparison of health among coffee drinkers.

## No miracle cure

The authors say the findings have "important public-health implications" given the spiralling costs of treating people with diabetes.

They urge caution, however, for people tempted to seize upon coffee as a miraculous shield against this health problem.

"Possible adverse effect on other health aspects should be considered in the choice to consume coffee." Diabetes afflicts more than 17 million people in the United States and more than 150 million worldwide.

The disorder is characterized by a chronic, toxic excess of sugar in the blood caused by a lack of insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas. It can cause blindness, kidney failure and even death.

The researchers note that caffeine is known to reduce the body's sensitivity to insulin, a phenomenon that should in fact worsen the diabetes problem.

However, coffee also has lots of chlorogenic acid and magnesium, which they speculate more than offset the effect of caffeine.

Chlorogenic acid, a substance called a phenol which plays a big role in coffee's bouquet of flavor, has been found in lab tests to reduce absorption of glucose by the liver. Magnesium may improve sensitivity to insulin, they suggest.

The database covered 17,111 people aged 30-60. More than 4,200 drank seven or more cups of coffee per day while 2,792 were at the other end of the range, drinking two cups or less. *Reuters, AFP*

# Al-Qaida owns Bali bombings

THE AL-QAIDA terrorist network has said it carried out last month's devastating bombing on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, CNN reported Friday.

The Osama bin Laden-led terror network said it had attacked "nightclubs and whorehouses in Indonesia" in a website message translated by CNN.com.

CNN said the website was used in the past by al-Qaida to claim responsibility for attacks, including the synagogue fire in Tunisia in which mainly German tourists died, and strikes on two ships in Yemen.

"By attempting to strike a US plane in Saudi Arabia and by bombing a Jewish synagogue in Tunisia, destroying two ships in Yemen, attacking the Fialka base in Kuwait, and bombing nightclubs and whorehouses in Indonesia, al-Qaida has shown it has no qualms about attacking inside Arab and Islamic lands," the statement said.

"This is provided that the target belongs to the Jewish-Crusader alliance," it added.

In an interview with CNN International on Tuesday, Deputy US Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said al-Qaida had boasted about the Bali attack on the Internet.

But a spokesperson for the Bali-based multinational investigation team hunting the bombers said he had no information about the reported claim by al-Qaida.

"Our investigation has not yet reached a conclusion that far," Gen. Edward Aritonang said. *AFP*

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(In exact order)
**SUERTRES**
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**MEGALOTTO 6/45**
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# SPORTS

*Editor* **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

### Eastern Samar cagefest on

THE 6TH Eastern Samar Inter-Town Basketball Tournament in Metro Manila will be held today at the Imelda Sports Complex, near Araneta Avenue corner Bayani Street, Quezon City at 9 a.m. Metro Manila residents of Sulat, Eastern Samar under the leadership of Byron Baldado are spearheading the event.

## FIRST GENTLEMAN'S CIRCUIT

# Sinfuego outlasts Pacto in 5-hole playoff

**By Jong Arcano**

RICHARD Sinfuego used his lifelines well in a protracted-sudden playoff against Robert Pactolerin yesterday to win the First Gentleman's Circuit at Canlubang North.

Sinfuego delivered the killer blow on the fifth extra hole–a beauty of a 9-iron that spun back to within three feet of the flag.

He knocked in the easy birdie on their fifth trip to the 18th, clinching the playoff against a never-say-die Robert whose five straight pars in their extension were just not enough to give him the title.

SINFUEGO

It was, however, a bunker shot made by Sinfuego when they played the 18th for the fourth time in overtime that, in the end, became the shot of the tournament.

With Pactolerin safely on the green, Sinfuego was in the bunker at the back of the green and needing a perfect shot to save himself from a lie that was sharply going downhill.

He got the job done by setting up a gimme par.

Sinfuego shot a final-day 73 against Pactolerin's 70.

Rodrigo Cuello finished third with 70-281.

The victory was worth P100,000 for Sinfuego, who clinched only his second victory as a pro since winning the Camp John Hay leg of the now-defunct MRT Tour early last year in Baguio.

Pactolerin settled for the runner-up prize of P50,000 in the tourney bankrolled by the First Gentleman Foundation Inc. and presenting sponsor San Miguel Beer. It is organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc.

The loss extended Pactolerin's jinx in long playoffs. He also lost to Danny Zarate in a playoff that went four holes last year at Forest Hills in the MRT tour.

**Scores:**

Sinfuego 70-69-67-73=279 P100,000; Pactolerin 68-72-69-70=279 P44,000; Cuello 74-67-70-70=281 28,750; Zarate 72-68-70-71=281 P28,750; Lascuña 73-71-70-68=282 P22,000; Villaroman 69-76-69-69=283 P20,000; Ababa 72-71-72-69=284 P17,750; Pucay 72-68-67-77=284 P17,750; Santia 72-70-70-73=285 P17,000; Magada 71-71-72-72=286 P16,500

# Eagle Ridge Intervillage set Nov. 11

MORE than a hundred golfers representing the 12 villages that made it to the finals of the Nokia Intervillage golf tournament being organized by Videocom since 1991 will see action on Nov. 11 at the Faldo course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club.

The second and deciding round will be played Nov. 18 at the Palmer course of The Orchard in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Nokia, the world leader in mobile communication, is this year's title sponsor, playing a major role in the success of the tough but exciting elimination series held from April to June in various courses in Metro Manila.

Also throwing their continued support behind the Nokia Grand Intervillage are Philippine Airlines, PLDT, Alaxan, Planet Wine and More Gallery, ICTSI, Mastercard, Menzi and Company, National Sports Grill, Pisanti, Boracay 357 and Mizuno.

The top three teams from the four different sectors–North, South, East and Central–made it to the finals that will determine the best golfing village in the country this year. The 12-to-play, 10-to-count Stableford format will be used in the finals.

The field will be divided into three divisions: A for the sectoral champions, B for the runners-up and C for the third placers. The Nokia Grand Intervillage champion may come from any of the three divisions.

In Division A are elimination round topnotcher Corinthian (594), Alabang 400 (557), defending champions Greenhills 1 (580) and Magallanes (584). In Division B are Philam Homes (564), Tahanan Village (556), Greenhills 2 (558) and Wack Wack (573) while in Division C is made up of Don Enrique Heights (558), BF Homes (553), Valle Verde 1 (554) and Greenmeadows (551).

The players will also vie for individual honors with the maximum handicap of 25 for men and 30 for women. Only players whose names appear in the official team roster may compete.

# Cabrera up; Padraig does a heroic act

SOTOGRANDE, Spain—Burly Argentine Angel Cabrera birdied the last four holes as he muscled his way to an 8-under-par 63 Thursday for a four-shot first-round lead in the Volvo Masters at Valderrama.

Phillip Price of Wales held second place after a 67, one stroke clear of a group of five players on 68.

Retief Goosen and Padraig Harrington, battling for the European No. 1 title that Goosen holds, played together and shot 73 and 74, respectively. Harrington made the worst of starts when he called a two-stroke penalty on himself at the first hole for repairing a pitch mark on the fringe of the green.

Harrington said he wasn't flustered by having to call the penalty against himself, being more concerned with some mental errors and tentative putting.

"I hit a lot of ugly putts out there," said the Irishman, who trails Goosen in the Order of Merit by more than 23,000 Euros and needs to beat the South African this week to become European No. 1. *AP*

# Pangasinan bikathon set

DAGUPAN CITY—The much-awaited Tour of Luzon kicks off in this cycling-cracy province with a commemorative one-day road race on Nov. 13 in celebration of the birth anniversary of former House Speaker Eugenio Perez, a favorite son of Pangasinan and native of San Carlos City.

"The race will be fittingly called 'The Speaker's Cycling Grand Prix' and we inted to hold it every year," said former three-time national Tour champion Jesus Garcia Jr., himself a native of Pangasinan and race director of the event.

He said big cash prizes are at stake.

"I was assured by Philippine Cycling Federation secretary general Armando Bautista of the participation of 15 riders from the RP Team who will be pitted against the very best from Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Rizal and NCR," Garcia said.

The race has a distance of 210 kilometers.

It will start in San Carlos City and end up in Asingan, Pangasinan passing through the easter, central and western plains of the province covering 20 towns and two cities.

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## HARDCOURT TRAGEDY

# La Salle cager collapses, dies

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**MIGUELITO Gozum got a perfect outlet pass, turned around, and made a thunderous two-handed slam dunk that thrilled the fans at the courtside. A few minutes later, the same crowd watched in horror as the 21-year-old La Salle forward collapsed in a heap.**

Hours later, he was dead.

The 6-foot-4 Gozum, who was part of the Archers' four-year championship run that was cut this year by Ateneo, made it to the Manila Sanitarium on emergency measures given to him by team officials, but expired an hour later.

Head coach Franz Pumaren confirmed the report yesterday and said the incident happened at about 1:30 p.m. while the Archers were playing a game against the DLSU Engineering Department at the school gym.

According to team officials, doctors suspected that Gozum died of aneurysm as he suddenly dropped to the floor, gasped for breath and had seizures while waiting for ball possession.

Pumaren said the entire team had undergone a physical examination only three weeks ago.

Assistant team manager Manny Salgado said school officials have already informed Gozum's parents who are in the United States. The wake will be at the DLSU Taft Avenue campus.

Salgado said Gozum didn't even suit up in the first quarter and was fielded in only at the start of the second period where he opened the scoring with that dunk. *With a report from Jasmine W. Payo*

GOZUM: He dunked before he expired.

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## Duat lifts Aces

**GAME TODAY:** *Laoag City*
4 p.m—Talk N Text vs Purefoods

BULL-STRONG Robert Duat buried a miracle of a triple with no time left as Alaska got away with a thrilling 85-84 win over Air21-FedEx last night in the Selecta-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

But Air21-FedEx president and team manager Lito Alvarez said the Express would immediately put the game under protest after the referees failed to slap a technical foul on Alaska coach Tim Cone for entering the court twice.

Coca-Cola trounced Barangay Ginebra, 85-63, in the second game to improve to 3-1. The Gins fell to 2-2. *J. Navarro*

# Players want PBA seat

By June Navarro

TRANSPARENCY on the accounting of the players' trust fund and representation in the PBA Board of Governors.

In gist, these are the things the PBA players' union will ask for when it seeks an audience with the team owners before the end of the season.

The players' group, dormant for almost half a decade now, reactivated itself Thursday night as 23 veteran PBA players met and discussed ways on how to go about their trust fund and the possibility of earning a seat in the all-powerful Board of Governors.

"We want to know the running amount of the trust fund, the expenses incurred using the fund and a complete accounting of the interests it gained through the years," said 14-year veteran Jojo Lastimosa of Alaska, the player union's spokesperson.

Lastimosa said that back in 1993, the trust fund was already P14 million aside from the interests it earned from the bank. Nowadays, Lastimosa said his co-players expect the amount to balloon to as much as P60 million.

Monitored by the Commissioner's Office, the players' trust fund is the amount collected from fines slapped on coaches and players and the revenue of the PBA All-Star Games.

"We requested for a complete auditing of the trust fund last year but our demand was turned down. Instead, what they showed us was the number of scholars the Commissioner's Office had granted," said Lastimosa.

He added the players' union would ask for a dialogue with the Commissioner's Office and "they better come up with an explanation, especially the PBA official assigned to monitor the transactions of the fund."

Aside from transparency, the players will also request that the interests it gained be diverted directly to the union's coffers to sustain its day-to-day operations.

Lastimosa said they want to keep an office and hire individuals who would take care of the union's undertakings.

Its voice dying to be heard, the players' union will lobby for a seat in the PBA board, which, according to Lastimosa, would keep them out of the dark of what's really happening within the league.

"We want a compromise with the board. Let us agree on certain terms and parameters beneficial to both and meet halfway," said Lastimosa.

The election of the union's officers, Lastimosa said, would be held before the end of the season. At present, the players have agreed to assign at least two representatives from each team which forms the board of directors.

Also present during the meeting at the Shangrila-Edsa Plaza Hotel were Alvin Patrimonio and Bonel Balingit of Purefoods, Alaska's Kenneth Duremdes, Vergel Meneses and Zaldy Realubit of Air21-FedEx, Red Bull's Willie Miller and Noli Locsin.

# LBC Batangas seeks 2nd win vs Blu All Purpose

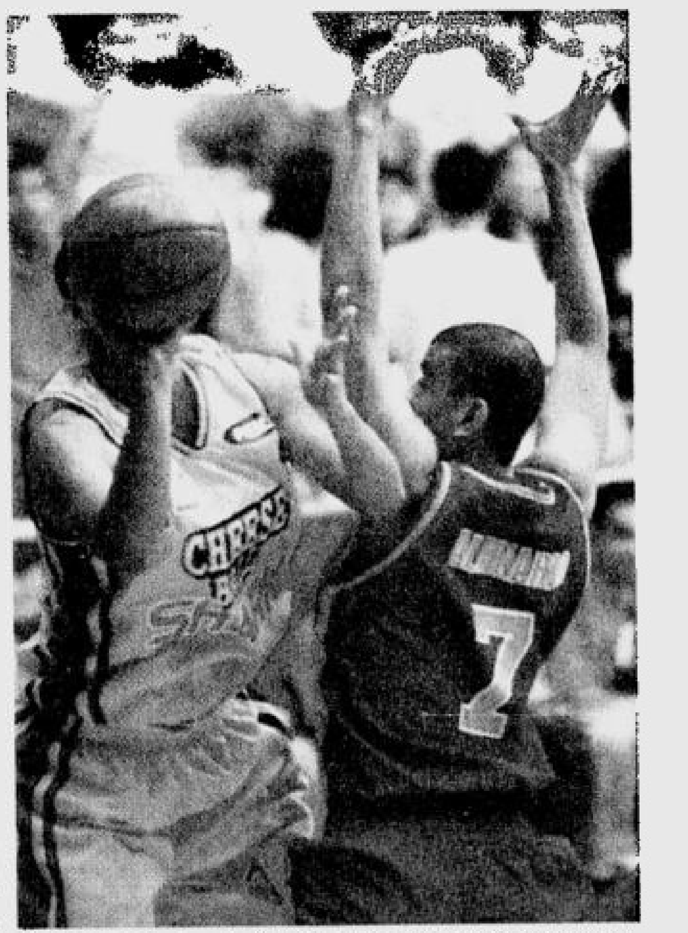
**GAMES TODAY** *(Pasig Sports Center)*
2 p.m.—Blu vs LBC
4 p.m.—Montaña vs John O

NEWCOMER LBC-Batangas Blades guns for solo leadership as it tests its strength against Blu All Purpose today in the 2002 PBL Challenge Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Batangas Blades coach Nash Racela wants to prove that their 84-77 triumph over Montaña Pawnshop was no beginner's luck as they hope to show the same intensity against the Detergent Kings in the 2 p.m. opener.

Two talent-laden teams–Montaña and John-O–try to bounce back from their opening day setback when they clash against each other in the main encounter at 4 p.m.

"That opening-day win was a big morale- booster for the boys. We may be the shortest, the youngest and the most inexperienced team here but I told the boys we could turn these disadvantages into strengths. That's what exactly happened on our debut, the boys proved to themselves that nothing is impossible as long as we work hard and believe in ourselves," said Racela.



**JHAYSON Alminario (right) of Sunkist-Pampanga looks like he's up against an alien, with the ball covering the head of Rysal Castro of Cheeseball/Shark. Shark won, 97-74.**

ROMY HOMILLADA

# RP bucks Torre setback

BLED, Slovenia—The Philippines drew Macedonia Thursday as it stretched its unbeaten streak to five consecutive rounds in the 35th World Chess Olympiad.

But Eugene Torre took his fourth loss, this time against super grandmaster Kiril Georgiev, as the Philippines shared 22nd to 26th place.

The penultimate round is set today.

Torre lost to Georgiev in 51 moves of a Trompovsky Opening, even as Mark Paragua neared a second grandmaster result by beating Zvonko Stojanovski in 34 moves of a Sicilian Defense.

Paragua won a piece on the 32nd move, forcing his rival to give up two moves later.

Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor drew their matches. Antonio settled for peace against Vladimir Georgiev in 23 moves of an English Opening while Villamayor halved the point against Nikola Mitkov in 19 moves of a Reti Opening.

# Kasibulan 6-12 joins Copa Kids today

IN SUPPORT of the Philippine Football Federation's (PFF) grassroots development program , "Kasibulan 6-12," futbol promoter Ed Formoso has laid out the welcome mat to teams from the public school sector.

Coaches Chito Manuel/Dolfo Alicante of Juventud FC and Venus Manlangit/Fidel Zaragoza of the Parañaque Sonics have volunteered their public school selections to compete in today's "Copa Pinoy Kids" at Cuenca Park Alabang.

Juventud's coach Manuel, the metro's chief-instructor for "Kasibulan 6-12" said, "It's a great feeling to see public school kids trade "kicks against players from the private school sector."

The Copa Pinoy Kids futbol festival signals the realization of Formoso's concept of a "Futbol Without Borders."

Kids of the better-heeled football society will be represented by such teams as those of coaches Boyong Deles (TLC Blue Sharks), XC Santos (ICA Red Angels) and Mike Durian (TLC White Panthers).

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# Busan veteran tops Japanese, makes semis

FIFTH seed Wang I-ting of Chinese Taipei marched into the semifinals of the $10,000 Union Cement-ITF Philippines Women's Circuit after posting a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Japanese qualifier Mari Inoue yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Wang, a quarterfinalist in the recent Asian Games in Busan, played her usual game of baseline and occasional net attacks to conquer Inoue in 80 minutes and set up a meeting with second seed Khoo Chin Bee of Malaysia.

Khoo, the No. 2 seed, breezed past Uzbekistan Federation Cup team member Akgul Amanmuradova, 6-2, 6-1.

"I think that Inoue got really tired because she played two straight three-set matches. She made many mistakes," said the 20 year-old Wang, who is ranked No. 4 back home.

Wang, native of Tainan, hopes to score her seecond straight win over Khoo, the world's No. 571 player.

"I hope to play well against Khoo. We are both familiar with our games and I expect an interesting match," said Wang, whose best world ranking is No. 430 last year. She is currently No. 604.

Wang lost to Khoo in a $10,000 tournament in Korea but she prevailed in another $10,000 event in Chinese Taipei early this year.

# Williams, Dokic, Maleeva advance

LOS ANGELES—Serena Williams of the United States defeated Israel's Anna Smashnova 6-2, 6-2 in 54 minutes Thursday to open defense of her title in the sparsely attended, season-ending WTA Championships.

"I have a large bounty on my head now," said Williams, the world's top-ranked player who has a leading eight titles and a 54-4 record this year.

Williams hadn't played a tournament in more than a month, and the layoff showed. Her six aces were offset by six double faults and she committed 28 unforced errors.

Smashnova, however, failed to hit a single winner while Williams had 28.

"I felt a bit rusty. I'd give myself a C-minus," Williams said. "It's a matter of mentally focusing in again. The tougher the opponent, the more I'll focus in."

Williams advanced to a Saturday quarterfinal against Yugoslav No. 8 Jelena Dokic, who beat Anastasia Myskina of Russia 6-3, 6-4 in just over an hour in front of a few hundred people at Staples Center.

"She overpowered me," said Smashnova, who won four titles this year and was in the championships for the first time.

Dressed in a salmon-colored dress, salmon-and-white shoes and a pink headband, Williams did her customary pirouette on her way to the net and then blew kisses to all sides of the court in front of only a few thousand fans.

"It's L.A. Everybody is at home, doing something, going to a premiere," she said. "On weekdays it's tough to get people to come out to the matches. I do perform better in front of a large crowd. I guess that whole entertainer thing in me comes out."

A year ago, she won the tournament in Germany when fellow American Lindsay Davenport couldn't play the final because of injury.

"The way I played today it's not looking so good," Williams said of her chances of a repeat.

Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria surprised No. 7 Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 6-2, 7-5 in another first-round match. *AP*

## GMA GUEST OF HONOR

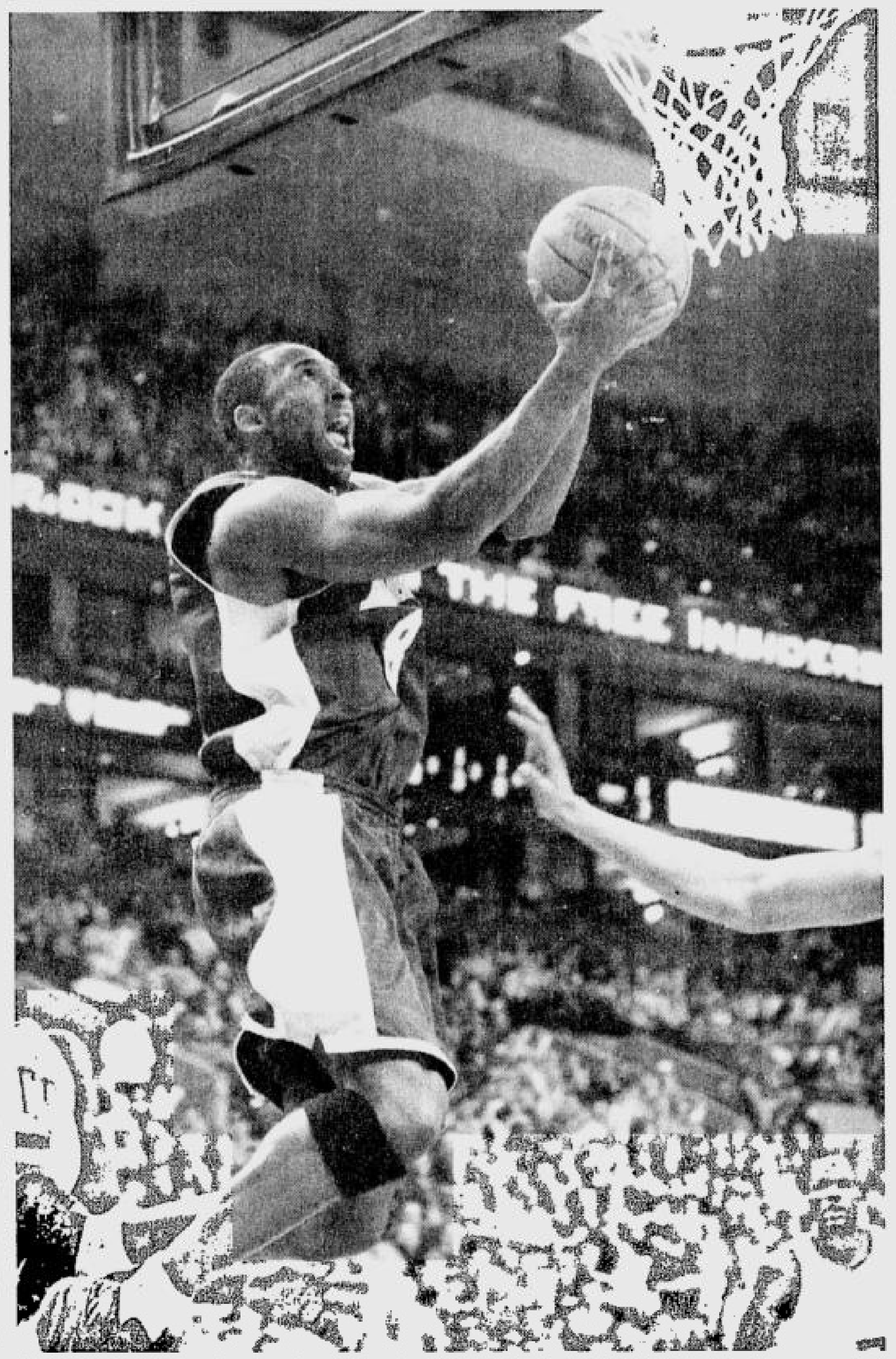
# 21 nations battle for dance honors

**DANCE athletes from 21 nations will strut their wares at 1 p.m. today in the Asia Pacific Dancesport Championships at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City, with President Macapagal-Arroyo as invited guest of honor.**

MACAPAGAL

"It's all systems go," said Becky Garcia, president of the Dancesport Council of the Philippines which is co-hosting the affair with the International Dancesport Federation. "Surely, it would be a golden opportunity to hold the Asia Pacific Championships here because it would take away the world's attention from the crises that it is facing while showcasing, at the same time, the Filipinos' renowned hospitality and natural talent for dancing, proving that the Philippines is a safe and happy place to go, truly a tourist destination."

Featured in the tournament, aside from the Philippines are dance athletes from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, China, Taipeh, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Lebanon, Macau, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Japan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan, Canada and the United States. They will be competing in three events, namely IDSF amateur, youth and junior in both Standard and Latin categories. Garcia is co-chair of the Asia Pacific dancefest, the biggest and most exciting in many years, is sponsored by the Philippine Olympic Committee, PCSO, Pagcor, PSC, Philippine Air Lines, Edsa Shangri-la, Gulf Air, Bodega City, Dance Exchange, Pagoda Philippines, Carlines Transportation and ABC 5. Assisting Garcia, who has been president since 1996 of DSCP, the only amateur body for dance recognized by the POC, are board members Noel Laman, chair; Jun Herrera, vice president; Jo Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer; Andy Fornier, Marvie Cojuangco Yulo, Prof. Naomi Enriquez, Tonet Lagdameo, Gen. Sonny Yan, Edward Hayco, Ruby Co, Emma Nieto, Chona Mercado and Joel Ocsena.



BRYANT: His efforts that produced 41 points were not enough. AFP

# Celtics nip Lakers in OT

BOSTON—Paul Pierce scored 28 points, including a 3-pointer in the final 1:54 of overtime, as Boston beat the depleted Los Angeles Lakers, 98-95, Thursday.

Kobe Bryant had 41 points on a hot-and-cold night in which he hit just 4-of-15 in the first half, scored 18 in the third quarter and then missed 10 consecutive field-goal attempts in the fourth quarter and overtime. He was 17-for-47 from the field overall, and 0-for-8 from 3-point range.

Tony Delk scored 26 points for Boston, making a pair of free throws with 9.3 seconds remaining to make it 98-95. Bryant's 3-point attempt to tie it with 1 second remaining bounced off the front of the rim.

Playing without Shaquille O'Neal and Rick Fox, and coming off their lowest-scoring game in four decades, the Lakers had just 35 points at the break. But Bryant was hot in the third quarter, scoring eight in a row as Los Angeles rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to take the lead.

Los Angeles lost 81-70 on Tuesday night to the Cleveland Cavaliers—the Lakers' lowest point total since moving from Minneapolis in 1960.

### Timberwolves 114, Bucks 110

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett had 28 points and 24 rebounds, and Wally Szczerbiak returned to the lineup with 19 points as Minnesota beat Milwaukee.

Garnett tied his own career high and franchise record for rebounds, set on Dec. 14, 2001 against Sacramento. He went 20-20 in points and rebounds for the ninth time in his career as the Wolves extended their winning streak against the Bucks to seven games.

Minnesota overcame 22 first-half points from the Bucks' Sam Cassell and 18 third-quarter points from teammate Ray Allen. Cassell finished with 32 points and Allen had 27.

### Pistons 89, Nuggets 63

In Denver, Chauncey Billups scored 21 points, including five 3-pointers, as the Detroit beat Denver.

Billups, who shot 5-of-8 from 3-point range, had 10 points in the third quarter to help the Pistons increase their lead to 27. He did not play in the fourth quarter.

Richard Hamilton added 15 points, and Ben Wallace had 13 rebounds for Detroit, which shot 48 percent compared to Denver's 32 percent. *AP*

# US school acknowledges big-money payoffs row

ANN ARBOR, Michigan–The University of Michigan levied a postseason ban on its men's basketball program for 2003 on Thursday after acknowledging big-money payoffs by a booster to several star players during the 1990s.

The program, hoping to stave off a stiffer response from the NCAA, also announced it was forfeiting more than 100 games from five different seasons.

"There is no excuse for what happened. It was wrong, plain and simple," Michigan President Sue Coleman told a news conference. "We have let down all who believe that the University of Michigan should stand for the best in college athletics.

"We have disappointed our students, our faculty, our alumni and our fans," she added. "This is a day of great shame for the University. I am determined that nothing like this will ever happen again at Michigan. Let me say loud and clear: Integrity is our top priority."

The announcement came in response to the contact star players Chris Webber, Louis Bullock, Robert Traylor and Maurice Taylor had with booster Ed Martin, who claimed he gave each player thousands of dollars, including $280,000 to Webber.

Michigan said it was forfeiting a total of 168 games from five different seasons in which the four played - 1992-93 and from 1995-96 to 1998-99.

The school also will pay back $450,000 to the NCAA and take down four banners from Crisler Arena–those honoring a pair of Final Four appearances, a National Invitation Tournament title and a Big Ten tournament championship.

The $450,000 reimbursement is equivalent to the money collected from two Final Four appearances. *Reuters*

# Thailand wins Clark Centennial Cup

**By Dennis U. Eroa**

CLARK, Pampanga–Thailand 1 dominated Thailand 2, 21-16, 21-15, to win the First Clark Centennial Cup Asian women's beach volleyball championship yesterday at the Clearwater Country Club here.

Top-seed Manatsanan Pangka and Arlaisuk Ratanaporn, the 1998 Bangkok Asiad gold medalists, proved too much against the pair of countrywomen Kamolthip Kuna and Juranee Sanok to emerge triumphant after 34 minutes of action.

The victory was worth $3,000 for the winning duo, with the losers settling for $2,000. This was also the second time that Pangka and Ratanaporn won a leg in the prestigious Asian circuit.

Third place went to the Indonesia 2 tandem of Emerita Arisanti and Ninik Nuraida which subdued Yudahni Ni Puti and Nurjahah Sitti of Indonesia 1, 21-14, 13-21, 15-13.

The tournament was organized by AYN Sports Management and sanctioned by the Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association and the Asian Volleyball Confederation. Sponsors were Clark Development Corporation, Sharp, Pagcor, Speedo, Salonpas, Philippine Sports Commission.

Japan settled for fifth after beating Vietnam in three hard-fought sets, 23-21, 21-23, 15-13.

Helen Dosdos and Cecille Tabuena of Philipppines 2 finished seventh after beating Philippines 1 of Jennifer Bohawe and Sarah Fay Luna, 21-16, 21-14.

"This event showed that when you work together and pool resources you can achieve something big," said Chito Narvasa of AYN.

Dr. Emmanuel Angeles, chief executive officer of CDC and board chair Rizalino Navarro, and Magalang Mayor Pastor Guiao led the guests list in the closing ceremonies.

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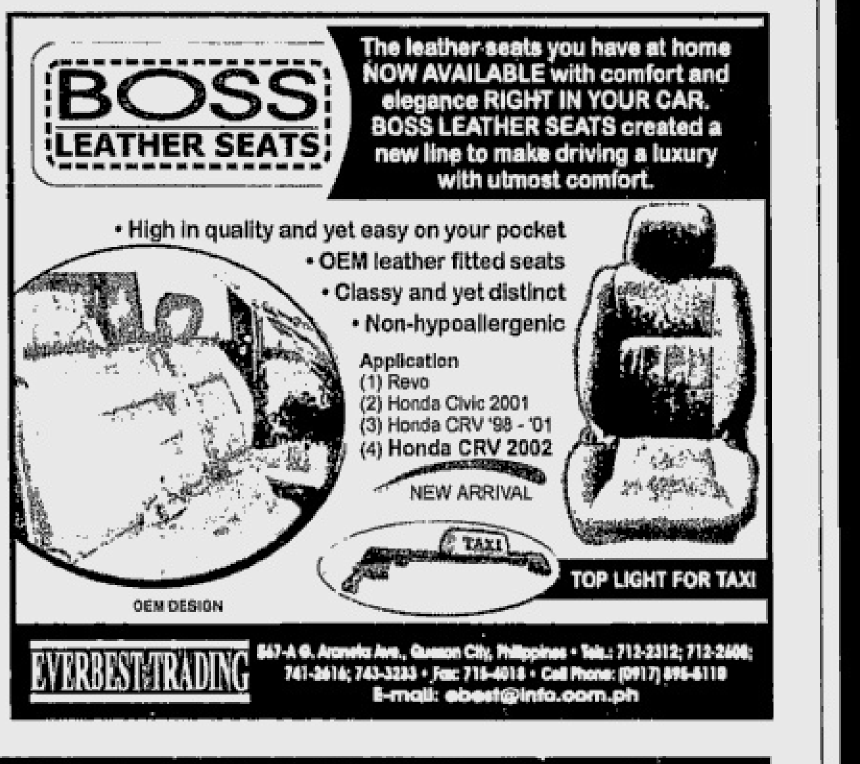

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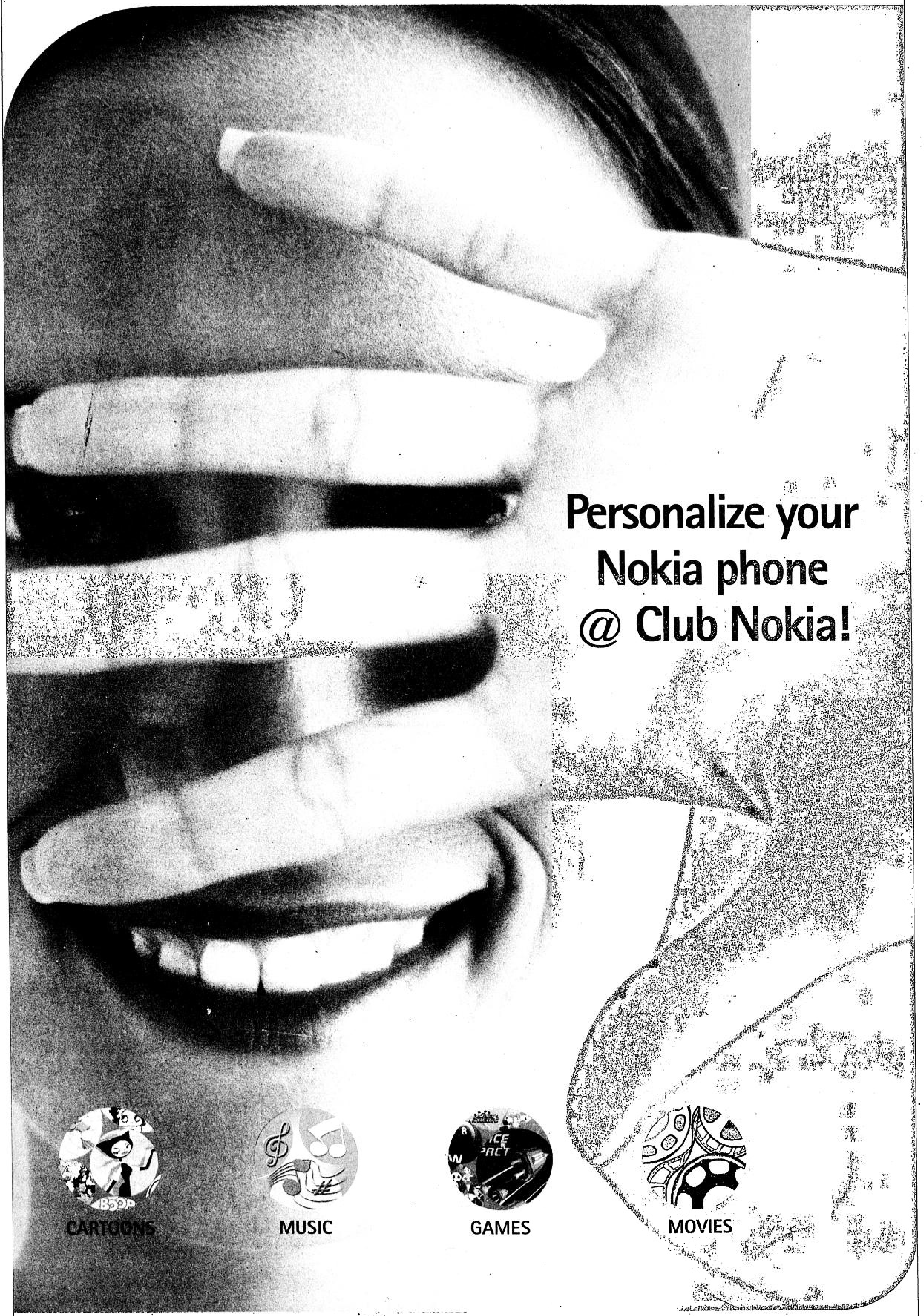
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# METRO

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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

■ 6 kidnapped in a month A27

■ Owners of drug lab house face raps A29

■ MMDA: No-touch policy in traffic violations /A30

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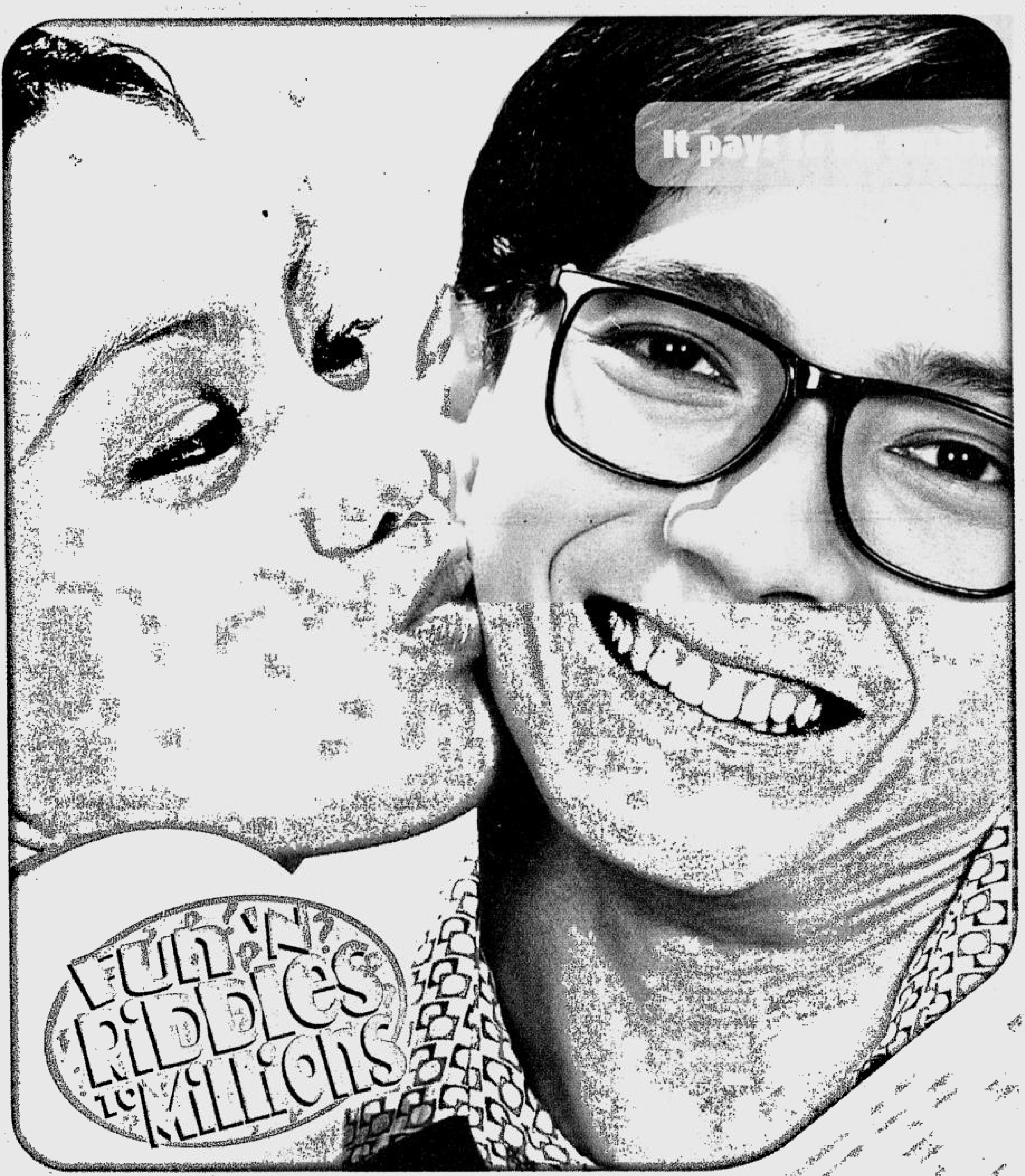
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# Two faces of a uniformed superior

ON TARGET

*Ramon Tulfo*

IN THE old days, a mother would make her toddler stop its tantrums by telling the child that she would give away the baby to the bearded *Bumbay* or Indian who peddled umbrellas and other items in the neighborhood.

Now, a child will immediately stop having tantrums when the mother points to the neighborhood cop. "'*Pag hindi ka tumigil sa pag-iyak mo, ibibigay kita kay* Kikong pulis *para kainin ka* (If you don't stop crying, I will give you away to Kiko who will eat you)."

Making monsters out of cops is unfair. Not all cops are abusive. Most of them are well-behaved and dedicated to their job. And even the few rotten ones don't eat children.

* * *

**The picture of a wolf in a policeman's uniform, its mouth wide open and its long tongue sticking out, came about as a result of the capers of bad cops and their superiors who tolerate them.**

**Raul Saldivar, 36, a Protestant pastor, and his lay minister, Rutchie Pido, 23, have joined the ranks of citizens who look at policemen as a pack of (uniformed) wolves.**

**Saldivar and Pido went to the Western Police District (WPD) headquarters recently, looking for a friend who happens to be a Manila policeman.**

* * *

They didn't find their friend at the WPD headquarters. What they found was trouble not of their own making.

Pido was met by a cop in civilian clothes, SPO2 Angelito Cameron, who was very drunk at the time. Cameron demanded to know Pido's business at the headquarters.

And without any provocation, Cameron drew his gun, pointed it at the dumbfounded guy, placed it back on his hip, and slapped him across the face many times. Also shocked was Saldivar the preacher, who saw everything.

* * *

**Pido and Saldivar reported their oppression to Supt. Marcelino Pedroso, who was the WPD headquarters' command duty officer at the time.**

**You know what Pedroso did? He ignored the complaint. He told Pido and Saldivar to forget the incident since Cameron was drunk.**

**This columnist, whom Pido and Saldivar approached later to tell about their ordeal, learned that Pedroso was Cameron's superior.**

* * *

If a citizen can no longer run to a uniformed policeman for help, who can he run to?

If a citizen can no longer trust a uniformed cop, who can he trust?

Two crimes were committed that day against Pido and Saldivar: the crime of commission (the gun-poking and slapping), and the crime of omission (the inaction of a uniformed officer, a police lieutenant colonel at that, in the face of complaint).

* * *

**If a top-ranking officer like Pedroso would not act on a criminal complaint, can you expect cops of lesser rank to do otherwise?**

**Pedroso's lame excuse when I and the complainants confronted him was that he didn't witness the incident so he couldn't arrest Cameron.**

**Son of a female dog! Did he have to be a witness to the whole incident in order to arrest an erring underling?**

**Pedroso should be demoted to Police Officer 1, the lowest rank in the Philippine National Police. He doesn't deserve the high rank and position.**

* * *

I bow my head in admiration to Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., chief of the Presidential Security Group (PSG), for personally attending to a complaint by a civilian who was severely mauled by one of his men.

I didn't expect that of Esperon, who took time off from his very busy schedule, to listen to the complaint of Jimson Arnasan, 23, a funeral parlor helper, against Sgt. Paciano Hernandez.

I had thought, when I brought Arnasan to the PSG headquarters last Thursday, that only his subordinate officers would listen to Arnasan's complaint.

* * *

**Esperon is very much different from his predecessors, with the exception of Brig. Gen. Leo Alvez, now retired, who ignored complaints by civilians against some abusive PSG members.**

**Esperon patiently listened while Arnasan told him how Hernandez beat him up. Arnasan said the PSG sergeant kept on kicking him even while he was already unconscious. Esperon's countenance became very serious when he heard that the sergeant didn't stop even while the poor guy was already down on the pavement.**

**As Arnasan was telling his ordeal, Hernandez was seated in front of him. The PSG chief had Hernandez listen to the complaint against him. The sergeant flatly denied the accusation.**

* * *

After listening to the complaint, Esperon called me aside and told me he would mete out severe punishment to Hernandez if he continued to lie that he mauled Arnasan.

"Mon, severe punishment awaits Hernandez if he doesn't settle amicably with the victim," the general said.

And what would the punishment be? I asked. The lightest would be demotion in rank, the most severe dismissal from the service, he said.

* * *

**Sir, if all commanders were like you, civilians would begin to trust the military.**

**And there would be fewer civilians joining the ranks of the New People's Army, or the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.**

*Mabuhay ka*, General!

* * *

In last Thursday's column, the last item, about business tycoon Lucio Tan, did not match the title, "The irony that is Lucio Tan."

The part that would have justified the title of that column was missing:

"How ironic that another country recognizes (Lucio) Tan's contribution to its economy and charity. In his own country, Tan is being persecuted.

"The government is blind to all the good things the tycoon has done for the country's economy and citizenry.

"There's a saying that a messiah is not recognized in his own town. This is not to say that Lucio Tan is a messiah, but at least the government should consider all the economic benefits that the country and people have derived from his business genius."

I hope that next time, people at the production department give more care in handling news stories and columns.

# Atienza backs dad vs Noli

By Jerome Aning

IRRESPONSIBLE journalism was how Manila Councilor Isko Moreno of Tondo branded Sen. Noli de Castro's description of Tondo as a crime haven in the Oct. 26 broadcast of his weekly newsmagazine show "Magandang Gabi, Bayan."

Moreno said that the senator's staff should have "researched more" for their report to be accurate.

"It's like the issue of branding the Philippines as a 'haven of terrorists,' which I'm sure the senator would object to," Moreno yesterday told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Like the councilors from Tondo, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza also lashed at De Castro and joined them in their anger at the senator.

Atienza yesterday said that De Castro should have been very careful when he featured the high crime rate in two Quezon City barangays, comparing the situation to Tondo.

"The senator should have said 'like what Tondo used to be' when he made the reference," Atienza told reporters in his weekly news conference.

Atienza said the peace and order and the economic condition in Tondo have "greatly improved" due to the efforts of the city and national governments.

But he cautioned that De Castro probably had no intention of disparaging Tondo, which was notorious for being a "no man's land" in the second half of the 20th century because of the district's high crime rate.

The 12 Tondo councilors in the City Council on Thursday were considering asking De Castro to apologize and labeling him "persona non grata" in Manila if his response does not satisfy them.

Moreno yesterday said that the Council has no concrete action yet, adding that they might just have to wait for De Castro to make a clarification.

# 'KaKa' grand reunion

THE GRAND reunion of non-ordained alumni, called Kapatirang Karlistas (KaKa), will be held today starting at 3 p.m. at the San Carlos Seminary on Edsa in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Tomorrow is Family Day. Spouses and children of KaKa members are invited. Activities like tree-planting, lectures on parenting, and celebration of the Holy Eucharist have been lined up.

Lunch will be potluck. Everybody is enjoined to bring some food and drinks.

There will be a minimum registration fee of P200, although those who have more in life may share their blessings by contributing more than the minimum.

Please bring updated biodata for the updated KaKa directory.

Please confirm your attendance by calling Alex Alcantara, 677-9595, 633-4440, or 0917-817-0916; Lol Jimenez, 807-4221, 0917-844-3716; Erwin Jason Mendoza, 561-0330, 0917-797-9179; Rollie Garcia, 838-2780; Jimmy Enriquez, 633-3666, 0918-912-2158.

# So the OWWA-Medicare members will know

*OVERSEAS Filipino workers (OFWs) and their dependents will enjoy the same Medicare benefits as what they are currently enjoying under the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) once OWWA's Medicare program is integrated with the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).*

This was the assurance made by **Dr. Francisco T. Duque III**, President and CEO of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) in light of public controversy pertaining to the forthcoming transfer of administration of the OWWA-Medicare program to PhilHealth.

*"We will maintain the current hospitalization and out-patient benefits that OFWs are currently enjoying under OWWA, including the contribution rate,"* Duque said. As such, *"...there is no reason why OFWs and their families should fear anything, especially where their Medicare benefits are concerned."*

Republic Act 7875 or the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 calls for PhilHealth to provide universal health insurance coverage to all Filipino citizens. While Executive Order 195 signed on August 13, 1994 called for OWWA to separately administer the program and its funds for OFWs, RA 7875 which was passed thereafter impliedly repealed the authority granted by EO 195 to OWWA to administer the Medicare benefits for OFWs.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) in its Opinion No. 25 dated April 11, 1997, categorically stated that *"... Filipino Overseas Contract Workers who are Medicare members registered with OWWA pursuant to EO 195 are among those to be enrolled in the NHIP now being administered by PhilHealth pursuant to RA 7875."*

OFWs who eventually return for good in the country can continue their PhilHealth coverage through its Individually Paying Program (IPP).

In addition, when they retire at the age of 60 and have made 120 monthly contributions to the NHIP, they can qualify under PhilHealth's Non-Paying Program (NPP) under which they can enjoy their Medicare benefits for life without having to pay any contribution. *"The earlier they become members under the NHIP, the more they are assured of qualifying in the NPP,"* the PhilHealth chief said.

Meanwhile, Duque welcomed the move of Senator Loren Legarda seeking an inquiry into the transfer of the OWWA-Medicare program toPhilHealth. *"The proposed inquiry by Senate Majority Leader Legarda will be a good opportunity for PhilHealth to present its landmark health packages and benefits for the country's OFWs,"* Duque said. *"This will also lay down the merits and advantages of having OFWs covered by PhilHealth,"* he added.

Legarda earlier filed a resolution asking the Senate Committee under Senator Ramon Revilla to inquire on the legislative intent of the law and policies governing the Medicare benefits of millions of Filipinos working abroad.

PhilHealth now has 16 regional offices and 71 service offices nationwide with 1,512 accredited hospitals, 289 rural health units and 17,555 doctors all over the country. *"On top of having increased its benefit package twice and expanded its membership base, PhilHealth has sound financial investment with a remarkable increase in assets by 17 percent since 1999,"* he noted. For the first semester alone, PhilHealth has collected a total of P5.55 billion which represents a 20 percent increase over collection figures for the same period last year.

As of September 30, 2002, PhilHealth has covered at least 40 million beneficiaries, six million of which are under the IPP. Some 20 million are covered under the employed sector, five million under the Indigent Program and almost 30,000 under the NPP.

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12 DALAGINDING

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3 TRAPPED
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BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
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11 GHOST SHIP
12 TWO TIMER

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8 DALAGINDING

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6 SANTA CLAUSE 2

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# Rains cause traffic jams

**By Leila B. Salaverria and Alcuin Papa**

WHEN it rains, heavy traffic follows.

This was what happened yesterday after a sudden heavy downpour in the afternoon.

Traffic was paralyzed in Metro Manila, and thousands of commuters and motorists were stuck in it, especially on Edsa, a major thoroughfare in the metropolis.

Metro Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios yesterday said the heavy rainfall flooded several streets and snarled traffic.

Traffic practically stood still along a stretch of Edsa from Quezon City to Ayala Avenue in Makati.

"The traffic built up," he said. "Relatively few streets were flooded, but it's very difficult to recover. Even if there is traffic only in few streets, it affects the other roads."

He said Kamuning, Aurora Boulevard, Main Avenue and Santolan Road were flooded.

Other streets reported to have heavy traffic were Ortigas, Quezon Avenue, Guadalupe, Magallanes, España, Elliptical Road, West Avenue, Shaw Boulevard and Kalentong.

Traffic also built up on parts of the South Luzon Expressway, which include the approaches to Bicutan, Nichols, Sucat and Alabang.

Vergel de Dios said he expected heavy traffic to last until 8:30 last night, but he feared that the lifting of the truck ban at 9 p.m. would make it bad again.

# Ex-cop stabbed dead

FORMER Manila policeman Eduardo B. Lacap, 46, on Thursday was buying vegetables with his wife in Binondo, Manila when three robbers stabbed him dead.

Lacap, of Batangas, Tondo, Manila, died from several stab wounds, said Detective Raul Olavario of the Western Police District homicide section.

Lacap, of the WPD-District Support Services Unit, allegedly tried to resist the robbers.

Investigators recovered the 8-1/4-inch kitchen knife used in the killing.

Olavario said the stabbing happened at about 5 a.m. Thursday in front of the Chow King branch near the corner of C.M. Recto Avenue and Tabara Street in Binondo.

The Lacap couple had just bought vegetables, which they would sell in their stall in front of their house.

*Philip C. Tubeza*

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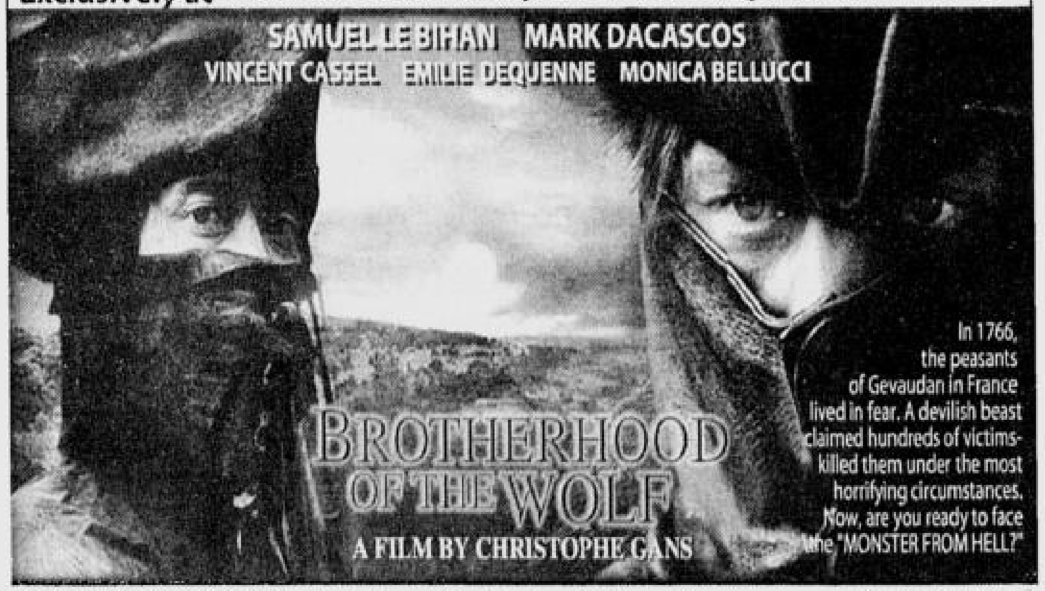
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But things go very wrong when they try the scheme on Dr. and Mrs. Will Jennings (Charlize Theron, *SWEET NOVEMBER* and Stuart Townsend, *QUEEN OF THE DAMNED*), in part because their daughter Abby (Dakota Fanning, *I AM SAM*) is asthmatic, and in part because the Jennings find out more than Joe Hickley wants them to know.
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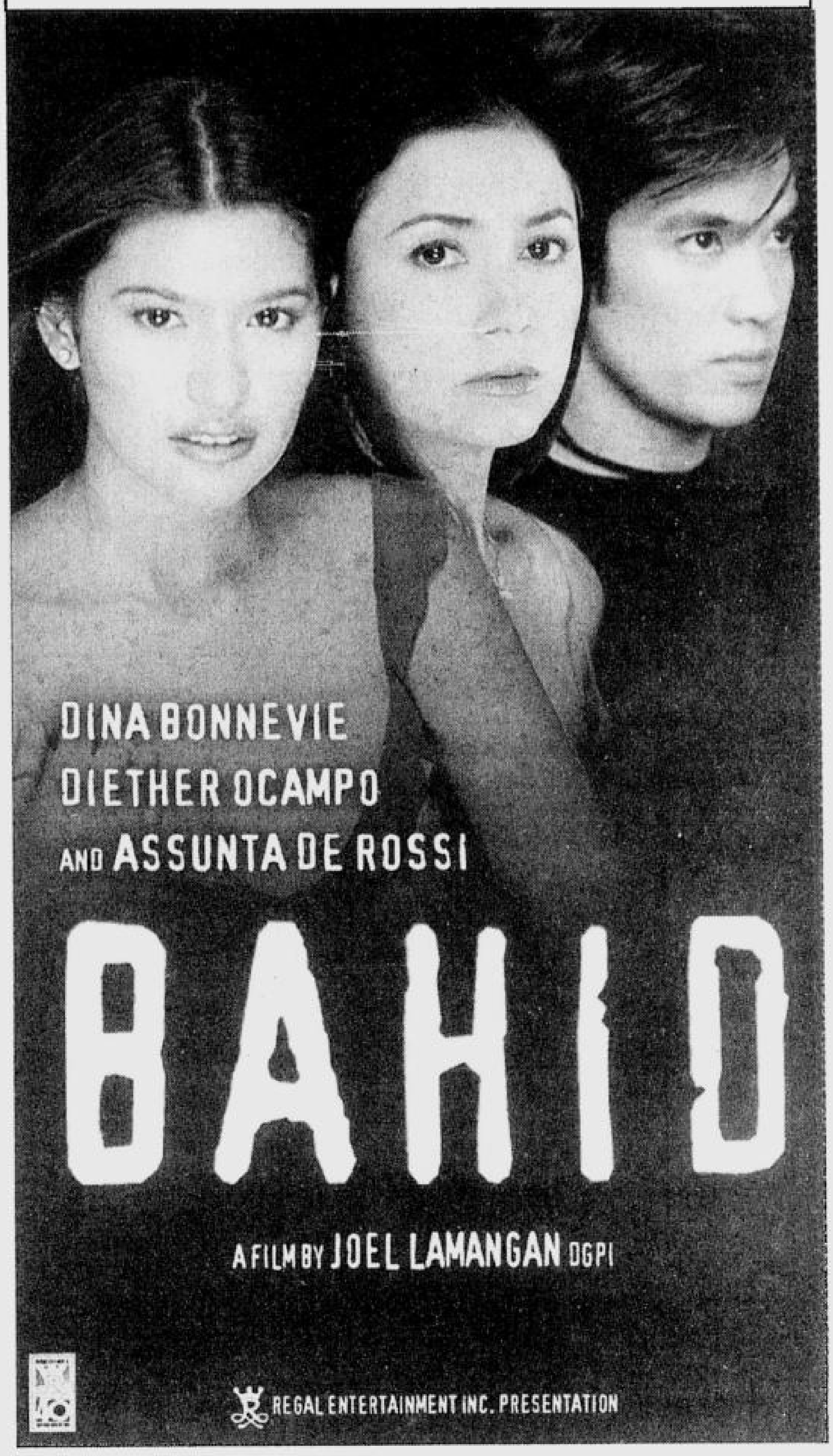
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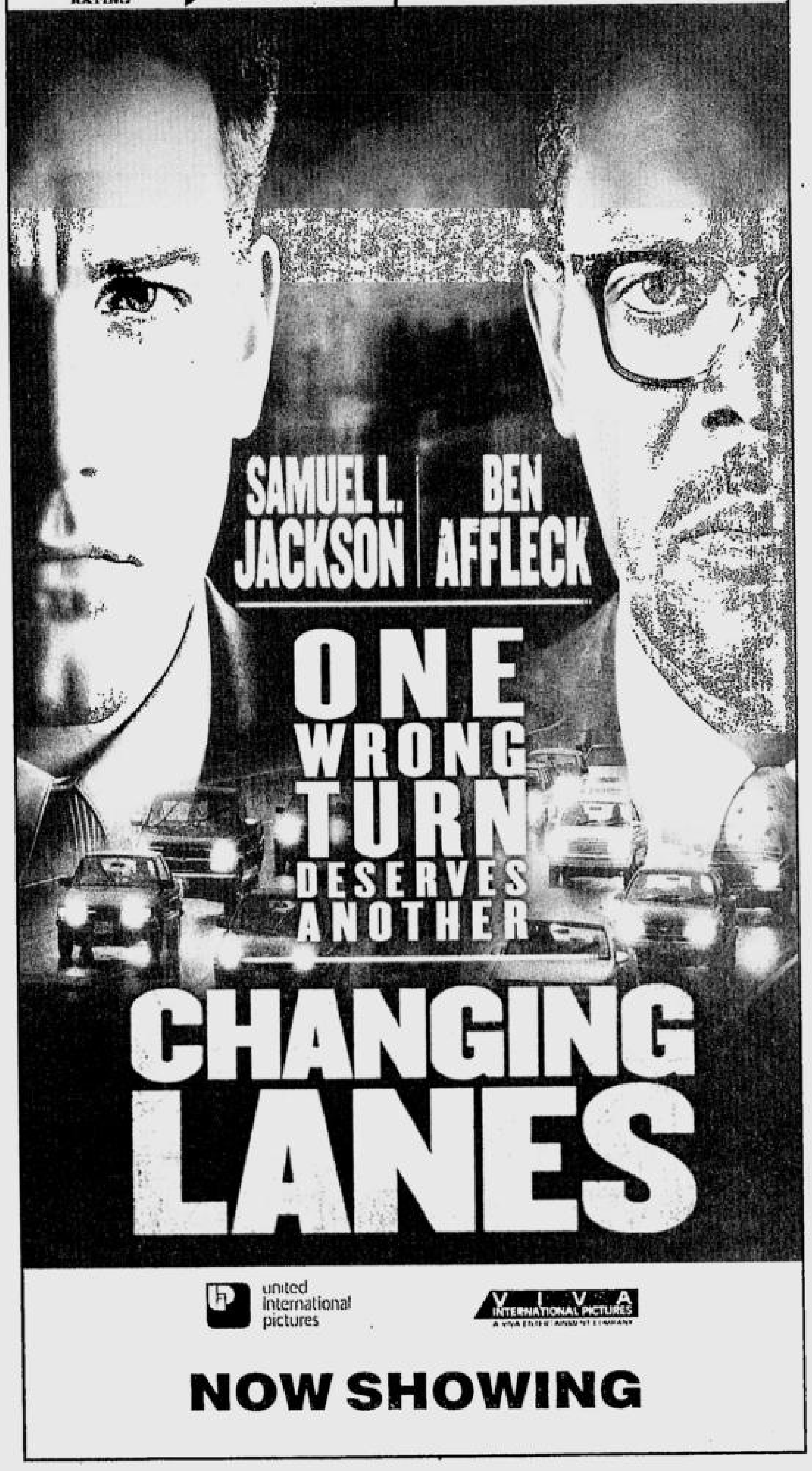
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# 'WPD cops kidnapped 6 in 1 month'

**By Philip Tubeza**

MEMBERS of the Filipino-Chinese community in Manila yesterday ruined the city police chief's 100th day in office when they called on Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong to rein in scalawag city policemen who "kidnap, rob and extort" money from businessmen.

Members of the community yesterday were up in arms over reports that at least six Chinese-Filipino businessmen were kidnapped and robbed over the last 30 days, allegedly by members of the Western Police District.

"*Ginagawa nilang gatasan ang mga* Chinese (The policemen are turning the Chinese into milking cows)," said former Manila Judge Doroteo Cañeba, who represents one of the complainants. "These are the scalawags that (Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes) Ebdane has talked about."

"We are planning to issue a statement (before) the Federation (of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce)," he added.

Robert Yson, a relative of one of the complainants, said that some members of the community, particularly anti-crime activist Teresita Ang-See, were surprised over the reports since they supported Bulaong when he was still vying for the directorship of the Western Police District.

"Bulaong had a good record, but then these things happen," Yson said.

Yson said he suspected that some policemen are out to smear the WPD director's name.

Bulaong has ordered eight city policemen investigated for allegedly abducting and extorting money from businessmen Jimmy Ong and Kelvin Ko on All Souls' Day.

The suspects were identified as SPO4 Rodolfo Rival, SPO2 Eduardo Liwanagan, SPO2 Angelo Camero, SPO2 Elias Demetria, SPO2 Teodoro Retuta, SPO2 Leonardo Santos, PO3 Robert Sena and PO3 Rommel Baylon.

Yson said Ong was forced to shell out around half a million pesos for his release. But not before the police allegedly beat him up.

Cañeba said that Camp Crame has already ordered the relief of the eight policemen, but WPD officials denied they have received such orders.

"We are still investigating (the eight policemen)," said Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod, WPD spokesperson.

Agunod added that they still have not received the official complaints against the eight policemen.

Cañeba said that he and the victims went to Camp Crame yesterday to file the complaint at the office of Gen. Virtus Gil.

## Shoemaker kills former live-in partner

A WOMAN vendor was killed when her former live-in partner slashed her neck during a quarrel in Quezon City on Thursday night, police said.

The Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit identified the victim as Jocelyn Dominguez, 26, of Rodriguez, Rizal. Dominguez was declared dead on arrival at the Quirino Memorial Hospital.

The suspect, who was arrested by police, was identified as shoemaker Jimmy Isidro, 34, of San Jose, also in Rodriguez.

According to the investigation by SPO1 Dennis Basibas, the slashing happened at about 8 p.m. Thursday in front of the National Book Store branch at the corner of General Araneta and General Romulo streets at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

Police said Dominguez and Isidro argued until Isidro suddenly pulled out a knife and slashed the neck of Dominguez.

The suspect tried to flee but was caught by policemen.

Investigators learned that the two had had a relationship but had separated. Dominguez was said to be living in with another man and police theorized that this could be the reason for the attack by Isidro.

*Alcuin Papa*

## Oil truck kills Makati worker

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

A WORKER of the Makati Pollution Control department was killed after being sideswiped by an out-of-control oil truck in the city on Thursday afternoon.

Ronald H. Baladlad, 33, of J.P. Rizal Street in Makati, died at the Makati Medical Center less than two hours after the accident, police said.

Baladlad was conducting anti-smoke belching operations on the northbound lane of the South Superhighway when he flagged down a Mitsubishi L-300 van (WLP-502) driven by Federico Pacheco, 46, for spewing black smoke.

But while Pacheco was trying to pull over, Daniel V. Niera, 32, the driver of an Isuzu Elf Tanker that was travelling on the same road, lost control of the oil truck's brakes and hit the van.

The oil truck also hit and ran over Baladlad who was standing near the curb.

Niera was taken into police custody after the accident, said Insp. Gilbert Loteria.

**BB. PILIPINAS World Katherine Anne Ramos Manalo is sent off by her mom Norma Manalo (left) and former beauty queen Nini Licaros.** JOAN BONDOC

## *'Imagine what I can do for children'*

**By Marinel R. Cruz**

WHAT attracted reigning Binibining Pilipinas World Katherine Anne Manalo to join the beauty contest was not the glamour and prestige that go with the title but the pageant's compassion and generosity, especially when it comes to children.

"I have a heart for little children," Manalo told the INQUIRER last Thursday. "If I win the (Miss World) pageant, imagine what I can do to help children all over the world."

This morning, Manalo leaves for London to take part in the Miss World International annual charity ball. She will fly to Nigeria two days later to prepare for the Miss World competition in December. Nigeria's Agbani Darego is the reigning Miss World International.

Manalo, 23, has been an active member of Youth for Christ since she was 10. "I traveled around the country to attend symposiums, join outreach programs and teach children," she says.

In fact, she spent her 22nd birthday with the children of Bagong Silang in Caloocan City. "Instead of partying and spending money with friends, my boyfriend Pio Hernandez and I sponsored an educational field trip for the children."

The couple took the children to Nayong Pilipino in Parañaque and the Museong Pambata in Manila.

"It was like one grand kiddie party," she said. "We know we've made a big difference in their lives."

She says that if she hadn't win in the local pageant held at the Araneta Coliseum last February, she would still be involved in Singles for Christ, a religious and cause-oriented group with members 18 years old and above.

Manalo is a mass communication graduate of the Assumption College.

She worked for a year as a public relations assistant for Sen. Loi Ejercito's cause-oriented program on RPN 9 and transferred to a financing company to work as an executive assistant.

"I'm thankful that I have a very understanding boss," she said. "He allowed me to go on leave although I told him of my intentions of giving up the job because I don't want to be a burden to the company. He said he'd hire a temporary assistant."

Manalo admits she hardly has time to spend with family and loved ones after she won the Binibining Pilipinas pageant. "The winners get a lot of invitations from all over the country," she said. "We're committed to this for a whole year. The very first thing we have to sacrifice is our time.

"I'm fortunate to have a very patient partner. Pio should understand how busy I am since he was the one who encouraged me to join the contest."

She says Pio and his mother urged her to join the contest this year because "they said I'm getting older. In fact, at 23, I'm the oldest among this year's winners. Miss Universe (Karen Agustin) is only 19 while Miss International (Kristine Alzar) is 23.

"This is actually my third attempt to join the Binibining Pilipinas contest. For the past two years, I was not able to attend the final screening. I didn't prepare for it this year because I honestly had no more plans of joining. Many people commented that I was overweight during the pageant night."

Manalo won six major awards, including best in swimsuit.

To prepare for the international competitions, the Bb. Pilipinas winners flew last June to Columbia where they were trained to walk, do their own makeup and answer questions with confidence.

"I, of course, pray to God every day for help," Manalo said. "I can't do this alone."

## Man left by wife goes wild

**By Alcuin Papa**

A MAN who went amok after his wife reportedly left him was shot dead by police in Quezon City Thursday night.

Police were forced to shoot Geraldo Alcantara, 32, of A. Bonifacio Avenue, Barangay Balingasa, Balintawak, Quezon City, when he ran amok in his neighborhood about 2 p.m., said PO3 Jun Mortel and Randy Escobido of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

Alcantara, who was said to be mentally ill, started to chase passers-by, threatening to shoot them with an improvised crossbow, police said.

When policemen from the La Loma station responded to the call of assistance from residents, they immediately tried to pacify the suspect.

But Alcantara allegedly attacked the policemen and shot an arrow in PO2 Noel Bautista's stomach.

The lawmen then opened fire and shot the suspect 12 times.

PO2 Bautista was taken to the Chinese General Hospital, police said.

Residents told police that the suspect's mental state began to deteriorate after his wife left him a few months ago.

## New Pasig police chief

SUPT. ERNESTO Catungal has replaced Supt. John Sosito as Pasig City police chief, reportedly after the latter incurred the ire of Mayor Soledad Eusebio due to differences in policy.

Catungal was formerly assigned to the National Capital Regional Police Office.

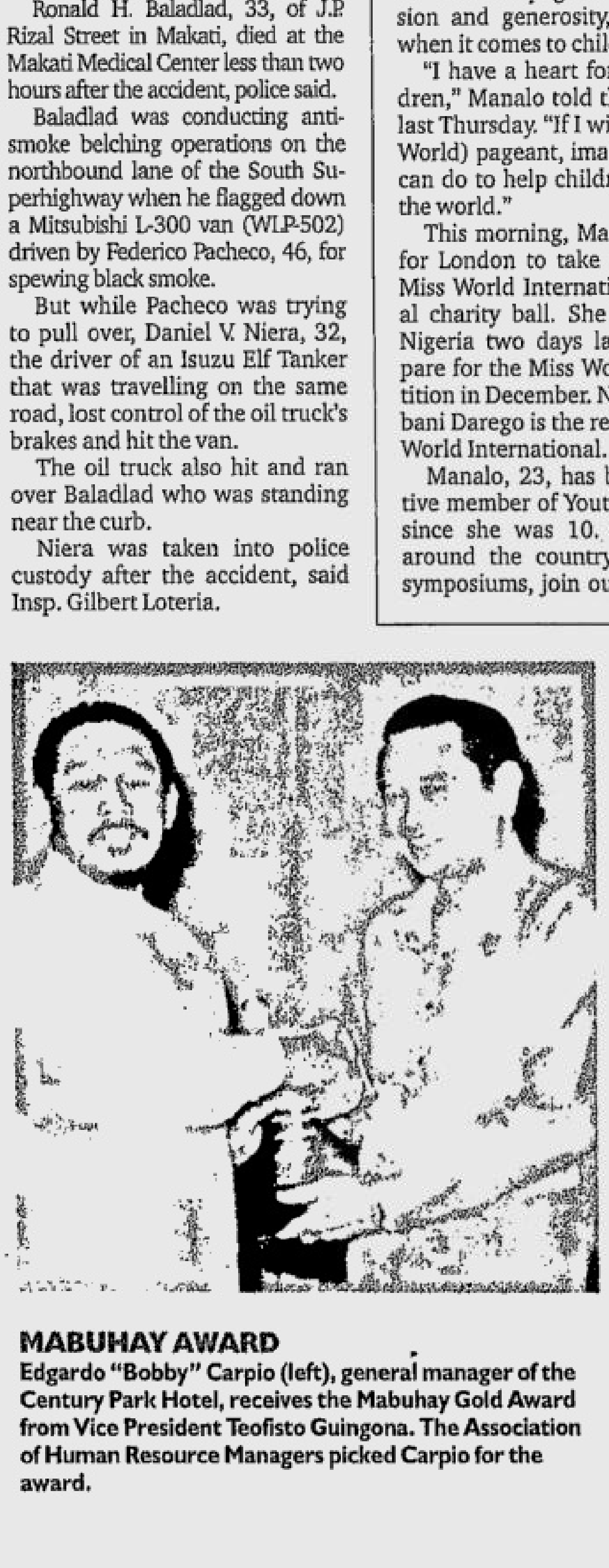
Catungal vowed to eradicate the drug problem in the city by working closely with the private sector. He said he is willing to be relieved if he failed to do his job properly.

He also vowed to clean the police rank of scalawags.

Eusebio said Catungal has six months to do his job, or she would be forced to recommend his dismissal.

"It will be an injustice to the people of Pasig to prolong the service of an ineffective police official who falls short of public expectations," Eusebio said.

*Nelson F. Flores*



**MABUHAY AWARD**

**Edgardo "Bobby" Carpio (left), general manager of the Century Park Hotel, receives the Mabuhay Gold Award from Vice President Teofisto Guingona. The Association of Human Resource Managers picked Carpio for the award.**

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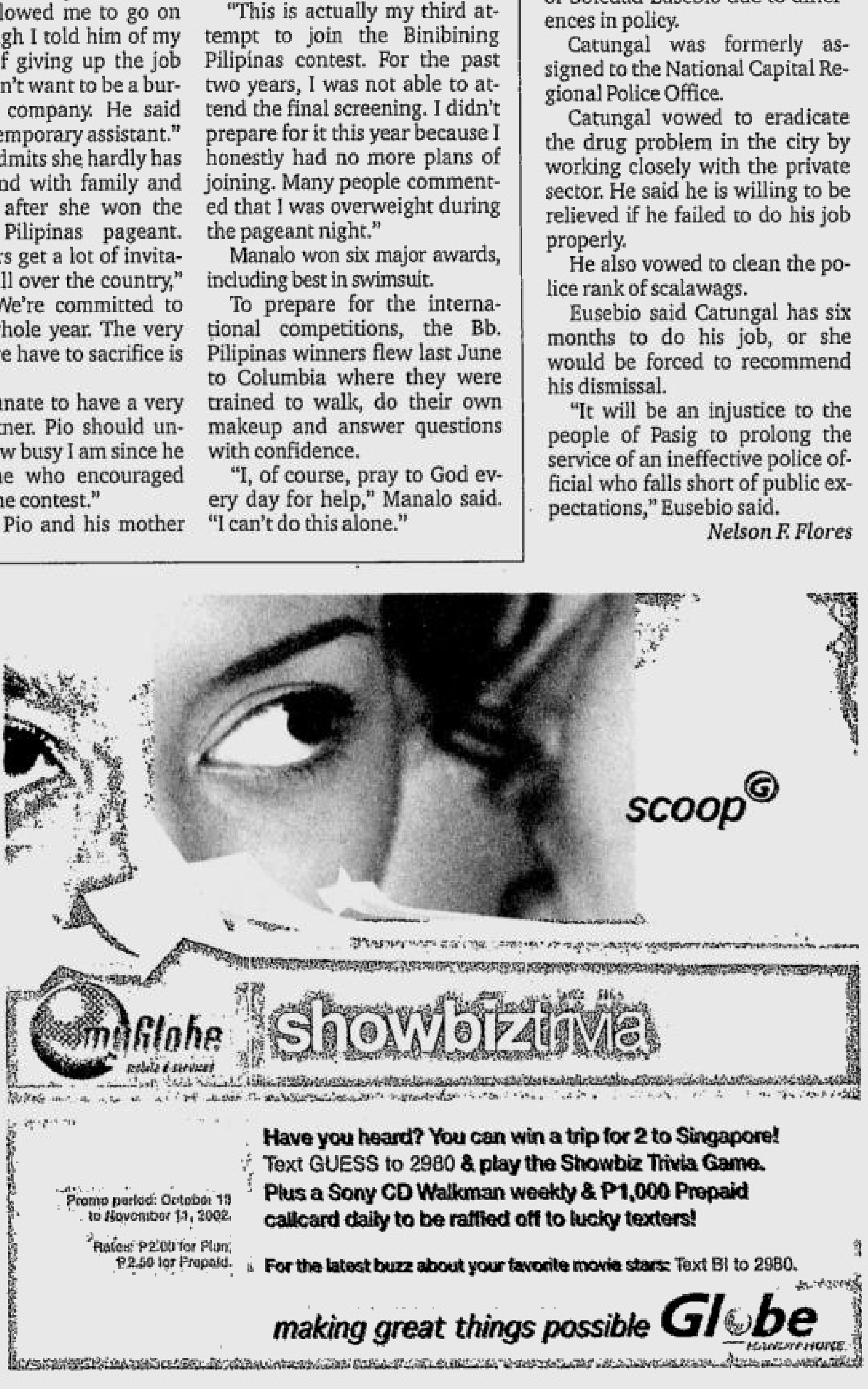
**ROTARY SPEAKER**

**Celso Dayrit (left), president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, receives a plaque of appreciation from Renato Ampil, Rotary Club of Manila vice president and presiding officer. Dayrit was the guest of honor and speaker during the Rotary Club of Manila's recent luncheon-meeting at the Champagne Room of the Manila Hotel.**



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# 5 nabbed for killing of 2 Pasig women

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents on Wednesday arrested four men and a woman for the brutal killing of two women in Pasig City last July.

Each of the victims, whose bodies were dumped in Cavite, had been stabbed 30 to 40 times. One of them had been raped, the NBI said.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the suspects as Rogelio Ibanez, 33, alias Roger, of Paliparan, Dasmariñas, Cavite; Fernando Amparo, 29, alias Badjao; Rolando Famy, 23, alias Lando; George M. Butuin, 24; and Wilma E. Vicente, 18.

Butuin and Vicente have turned state witnesses.

Wycoco said the suspects were responsible for the gruesome slaying of Melanie G. Tablit, 33, and Joan C. Tindugan, 24, helpers in a mansion at Greenwood Executive Village in Pasig City.

The investigators said a certain Juliet Atilano, 32, hired the five for P1 million to kill the house owner, Aneth Chua.

Chua was allegedly selling the house for P6 million. Atilano wanted to buy it but she had no money so she planned to have the suspects kill Chua after they force her to sign the papers transferring the ownership of the mansion to Atilano.

But when Atillano and the five went to the mansion on July 18, Chua was not there, said lawyer Oscar L. Embido, chief of the NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division.

The suspects clubbed Tablit and Tindugan until they were unconscious. Then they tied up the two women and Atilano ordered Amparo to stab them.

Amparo on Thursday admitted to stabbing the two women but denied that he was on drugs at the time of the killings.

While they admitted to conspiring with Atilano, none of the five suspects admitted to raping Tindugan.

The bodies of the two women were discovered in Cavite last July 19.

Embido said the NBI got a breakthrough in the investigation after the case was publicized in the newspapers.

He said somebody tipped the NBI about Atilano's involvement. NBI agents tracked down Butuin and Vicente, who agreed to turn state witnesses.

Embido said Butuin and Vicente acted only as lookouts. They told the NBI agents where Ibanez, Amparo and Famy were hiding.

Wednesday morning, the NBI agents went to Cavite and arrested the three other suspects.

They were armed with arrest warrants from Judge Isagani Geronimo, the judge handling the double murder case against the suspects at the Pasig City Regional Trial Court.

Embido said his men are hunting down Atilano, who also has an estafa case at the NBI.

# Firecracker proposal 'contrary to tradition'

**By Jerome Aning**

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said he has some qualms about the proposal of the Department of Interior and Local Government to have "a common firecracker explosion area" in every barangay for New Year.

"The scheme is contrary to the grain of the tradition of Filipinos to make noise in their own backyard to drive away evil spirits," the mayor said in his weekly media conference.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina on Thursday had proposed the designation of a "safe zone" in every barangay, saying this could be the only way to drastically cut down firecracker-related injuries and incidents.

The secretary said this would also prevent terrorists and criminal elements from taking advantage of the situation.

But Atienza said that although Lina's proposal, though valid, is doomed to fail because it would be hard to implement.

The mayor said that the national government banned exploding firecrackers during New Year 1973, a few months after martial law was declared.

"The dreaded policemen of the Metropolitan Command were even dispatched to enforce the order," he recalled.

Atienza, then a barangay chair in San Andres Bukid, said people openly defied the order, denting President Ferdinand Marcos' claim that martial law has imposed discipline.

"So next year, no such directive was ever issued," he said.

To minimize injuries and fires, Atienza said City Hall pushed for a common New Year celebration area at Rizal Park in 1999 and 2000.

The people were encouraged to go to the park, where fireworks shows and cultural presentations were staged.

"The activities failed miserably because very few people showed up," he added. "The people really wanted to celebrate New Year in the privacy of their homes."

Atienza said that instead of regulating the celebration to prevent terrorism, the government should instead regulate the manufacture, sale and distribution of pyrotechnics.

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | TRAPPED | 10:05 MF/12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END |
| 2 | CHANGING LANES | 10:05 MF/12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SANTA CLAUSE 2<br>GP<br>12:20,2:30,4:40,<br>6:50,9:00 | CHANGING LANES<br>P13<br>11:40,1:50,4:00,<br>6:10,8:20,10:30 | KAILANGAN KITA<br>P13<br>12:40,2:55,5:10,<br>7:25,9:40 |
| TRANSPORTER<br>P13<br>12:40,3:00,5:20,<br>7:40,10:00 | TRAPPED<br>R18<br>12:50,3:05,5:20,<br>7:35,9:50 | SWEET HOME ALABAMA<br>P13<br>11:00,1:10,3:25,<br>5:40,8:00,10:20 |

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| CINEMA 2 | SWEET HOME ALABAMA<br>12:00, 2:20, 4:40,<br>7:00, 9:20<br>P 13 |

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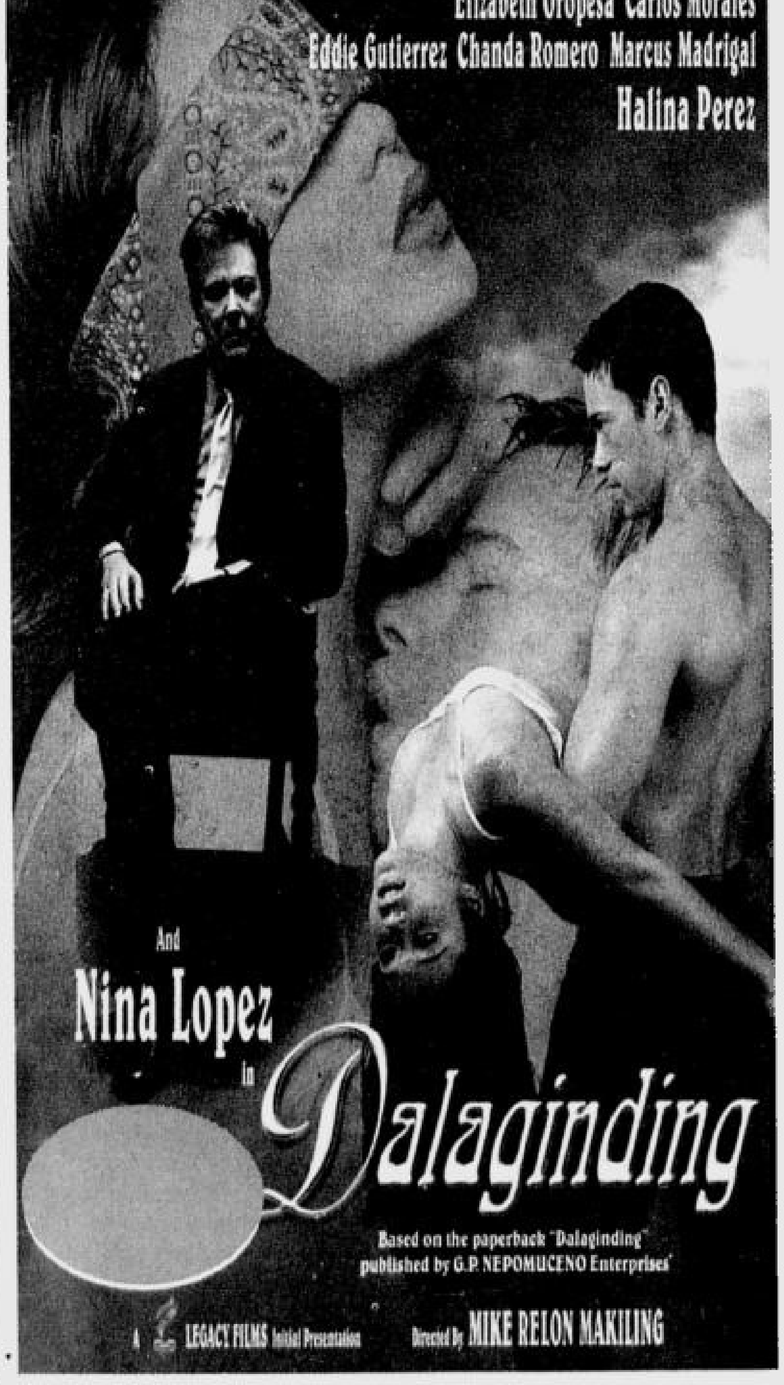
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PARSONS

# Parsons: Marikina 'sleeping on the job'

**By Nelson F. Flores**

FORMER Marikina City councilor and movie actor Sonny Parsons said the local government is sleeping on its job instead of doing anything to stop the city's worsening drug problem.

Parsons said he learned from police intelligence sources that a network of illegal drug dealers and runners is firmly in place in the city's barangays San Roque, Calumpang, Concepcion, Tumana, Barangka and Sto. Niño. He said most drug runners in the city are in their teens.

"They usually operate between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m.," Parsons said.

He said he also received reports that the drugs, especially metamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, come from nearby Pasig City. But he noted it was possible that shabu was also being manufactured in the city.

"Areas adjoining the city's illegal dumpsite at the Dona Petra Subdivision is an ideal site for a shabu factory," he said.

He said the rash of crimes in the city should be a wake-up call for Mayor Marides Fernando and the local police.

"All her beautification efforts would go to waste if criminality remains unchecked," Parsons said.

On Thursday, members of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group announced the arrest of two suspected drug dealers in a buy-bust operation last Wednesday morning.

Police identified the suspects as Abdulmanan Gumaga, 46; and Abdullah Usman, 30, both of Marawi City and residents of Barangay Concepcion Uno. Some 300 grams of suspected shabu crystals and P10,000 marked money were seized from them, police said.

The suspects had been under surveillance for more than a week, police said.

The suspects were arrested after they accepted the marked money and handed the contraband to a police agent who posed as a drug buyer.

During tactical interrogation, the suspects said they got their shabu supply from Muslim communities in Pasig City and Taguig.

The suspects were turned over to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

# Student shot dead

STUDENT Rodolfo H. Garan Jr., 22, would no longer be joining his classmates this second semester.

Detective Athos de Quiros of the Western Police District homicide section said Ruben Fenis, 29, of Onyx Street, San Andres, Manila, shot and killed Garan, of Granate Street, also in San Andres.

Policemen are still trying to determine the motive behind the killing, De Quiros said.

He said the suspect, armed with a handgun, barged into the house of Garan, looking for Garan.

# Owners of drug lab house face raps

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

THE BELEAGUERED Monasterio couple is not yet off the hook.

Police yesterday said they would file criminal charges against Teddy Monasterio Sr. and his wife in connection with the shabu laboratory found inside their Parañaque mansion on Nov. 1.

"We will automatically include them in the charge sheet since the house where the drug laboratory was found is registered under their name," said Senior Insp. Manny Santos, investigation branch chief of the Southern Police District.

Santos said it is up to the court to determine whether the couple will be held liable for the drug operations that reportedly went on inside their property.

The Monasterio couple went to the SPD headquarters Monday to deny any involvement in the operation of a shabu laboratory found inside their mansion on Hemlock Street, Executive Heights Village in Barangay Sun Valley, Santos said.

The two said they did not know that the Mr. and Mrs. Lee who rented the property had been using the mansion to produce huge amounts of high-grade shabu.

The Monasterios claimed that a female broker had introduced them to the Lee couple and helped negotiate for the lease of the sprawling property, according to SPO4 Rolando Santiago of the Parañaque Drug Enforcement Unit.

SPD chief Jose Gutierrez identified the broker as Chi Castro.

But SPO4 Santiago pointed out that the Monasterios continued to lease their house for P70,000 a month, though the lease contract ran only from Nov. 6, 2001 to Jan. 15, 2002.

"We want to find out why the Lees were still allowed to rent the house despite the expiration of the contract," Santiago told the INQUIRER.

The Monasterios explained that they had hardly visited the Hemlock mansion since they had been busy with their business in Bicol, according to Santos.

The Monasterios supposedly own the Rural Bank of Bicol.

Police are still investigating the principal suspect Bin Xu Zi, 30, the female broker, and the Lee couple before they can file charges against them.

"We need to ascertain the real identities of these people because failing to do so would jeopardize our case against them," Santos said.

Bin, an undocumented alien and said to be the caretaker of the shabu laboratory, had already been charged with drug possession, littering, and bribery, following his arrest hours before the All Saints' Day raid on the Monasterio mansion.

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| MANILA | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | GAMITAN / VOODOO |
| ODEON | TRANSPORTER |
| ODEON-2 | BUKAS BABAHA ANG DUGO / SENSUAL |
| ROBEN | DALAGINDING |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | AUSTIN POWER / DERAILED |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET-2 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| QUEZON-1 | DALAGINDING |
| REMAR | DALAGINDING |
| REMAR-2 | ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | KAILANGAN KITA |
| B | TWO TIMER |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | SWEET HOME ALABAMA |
| CINEMA-2 | SANTA CLAUSE 2 |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN |
| CINEMA-2 | BEDTIME STORIES |
| CINEMA-3 | HUWAG MONG TAKASAN |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SINGSING NI LOLA |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | MUNTING TINIG |
| CINEMA-6 | BALLISTIC |
| CINEMA-7 | BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG |
| CINEMA-8 | RED DRAGON |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | GHOST SHIP |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SWEET HOME ALABAMA |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION |
| CINEMA-12 | SANTA CLAUSE 2 |
| CINEMA-14 | SINGSING NI LOLA |
| CINEMA-15 | 9 MORNINGS |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| **NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN** | |
| CINEMA 1 | MR DEEDS |
| CINEMA 2 | 9 MORNINGS |
| CINEMA 3 | BESTMAN |
| CINEMA 4 | K-19 |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARAÑAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

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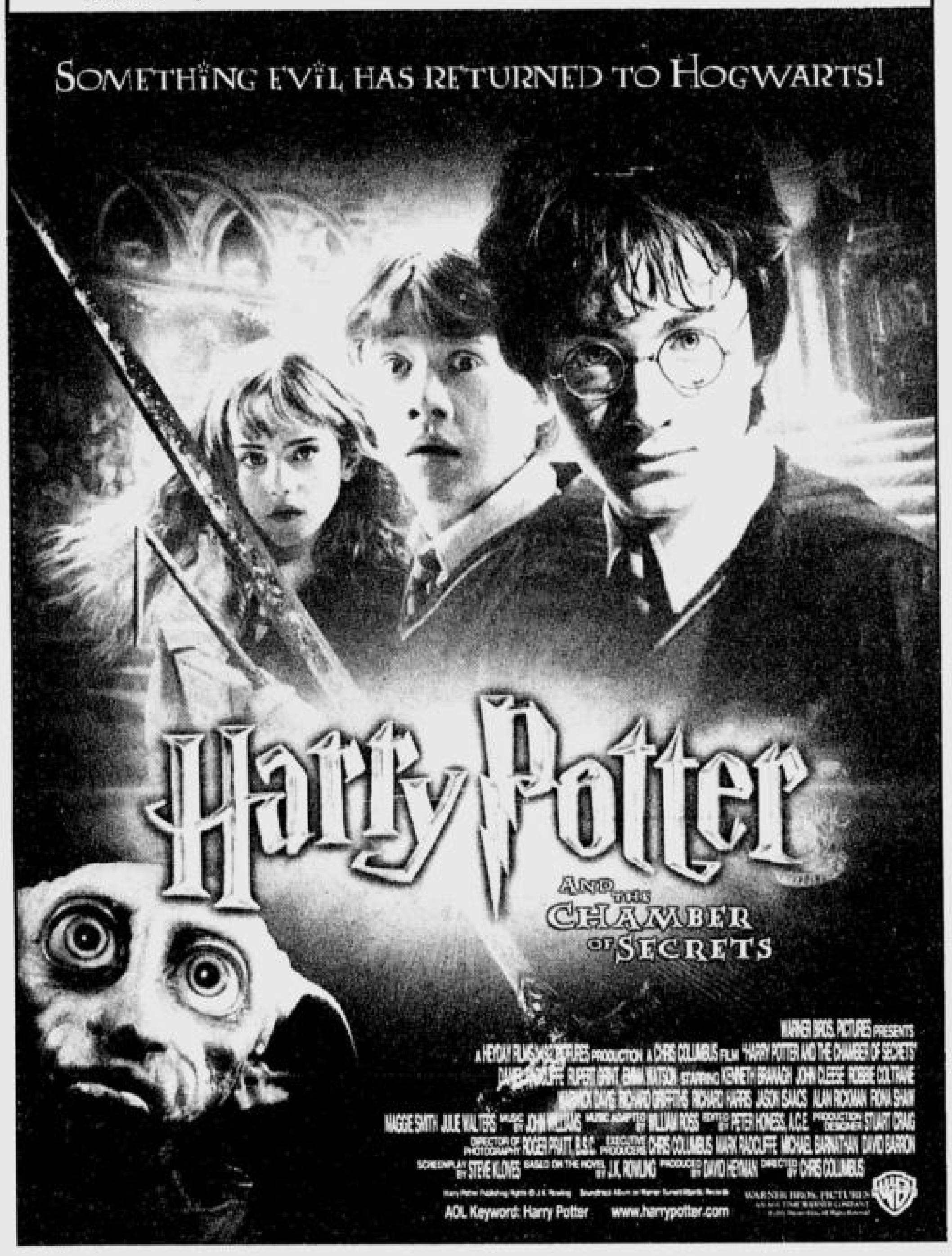
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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 TWO TIMER | 1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA | 1 THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE (EXCLUSIVE) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30 | 1 TRANSPORTER 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 | 1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA |
| 2 THE TRANSPORTER | 2 THE TRANSPORTER | 2 PIÑERO (Exclusive) 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30 | 2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 | 2 CHANGING LANES |
| 3 KAILANGAN KITA | 3 CHANGING LANES 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 12:00 | 3 REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 8-9, 21-22-23, 29-30 / DEC. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28 | 3 TRAPPED 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 | 3 KAILANGAN KITA |
| 4 KAILANGAN KITA | 4 GHOST SHIP | | 4 CHANGING LANES 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 | 4 TRAPPED |
| | 5 RED DRAGON | | KAILANGAN KITA 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 | 5 THE TRANSPORTER |
| | 6 KAILANGAN KITA | | | |
| | 7 TRAPPED | | | |

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October 31, 10 pm, Greenbelt Park
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Alabang
October 30, 1 - 4 pm
Mallwide Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza
Halloween Party featuring Southborder
Cebu
October 27, 1 - 5 pm, Activity Center
Trick or Treat for Kids
October 30, 8 pm
Food & Entertainment Center, Halloween Parties

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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

| ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7 | |
|---|---|
| Ali 1 | KAILANGAN KITA=1 35/3 45/5 55/8 05 |
| Ali 2 | TWO TIMER=12.10/2 20/4 30/6 40/8 50 |
| Ali 3 | GHOST SHIP=12 05/2 15/4 25/6 35/8.40 |
| Ali 4 | TRAPPED=12 05/2 15/4 25/6 35/8.40 |
| Ali 5 | TRANSPORTER=2 00/4 10/6 20/8 30 |
| Ali 6 | SWEET HOME ALABAMA=12 20/2 20/4 20/6 20/8.20 |
| Ali 7 | CHANGING LANES=12 05/2 15/4 25/6 35/8 40 |

| FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS | |
|---|---|
| Farmers 1 | DALAGINDING=1 40/3 40/5 40/7 40 |
| Farmers 2 | TWO TIMER=1 15/3 25/5 35/7 45 |

| ARANETA COLISEUM | |
|---|---|
| NOV. 3, 10 | PBA GAMES |
| NOV. 15 | STUDIO 23 MYX PARTY |
| NOV. 16 | HEALING THE FAMILY |

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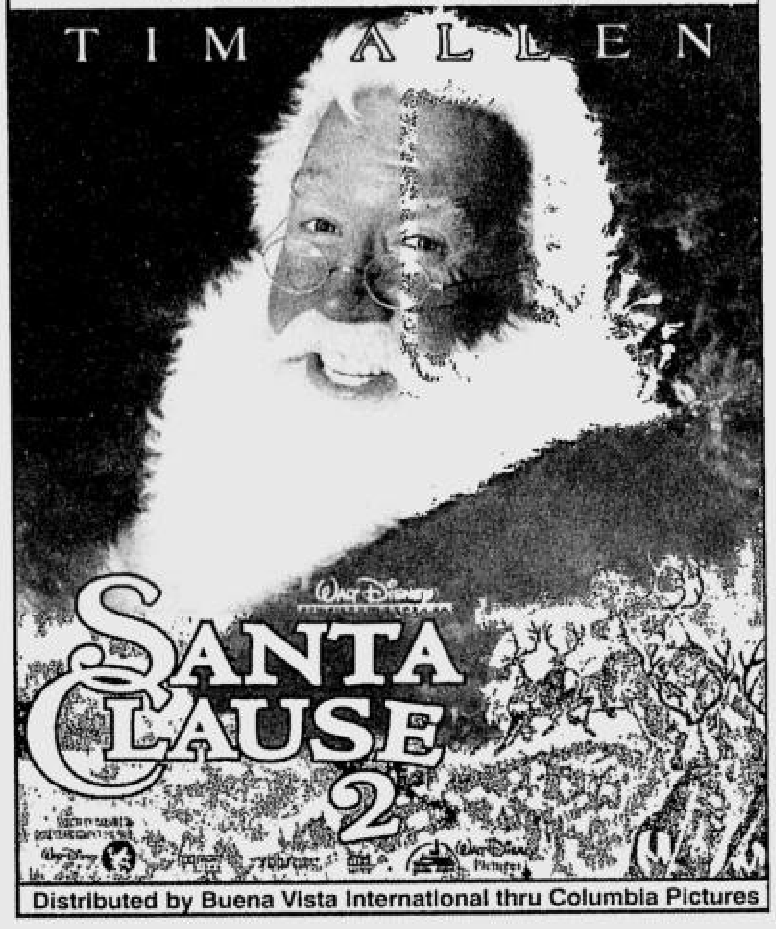

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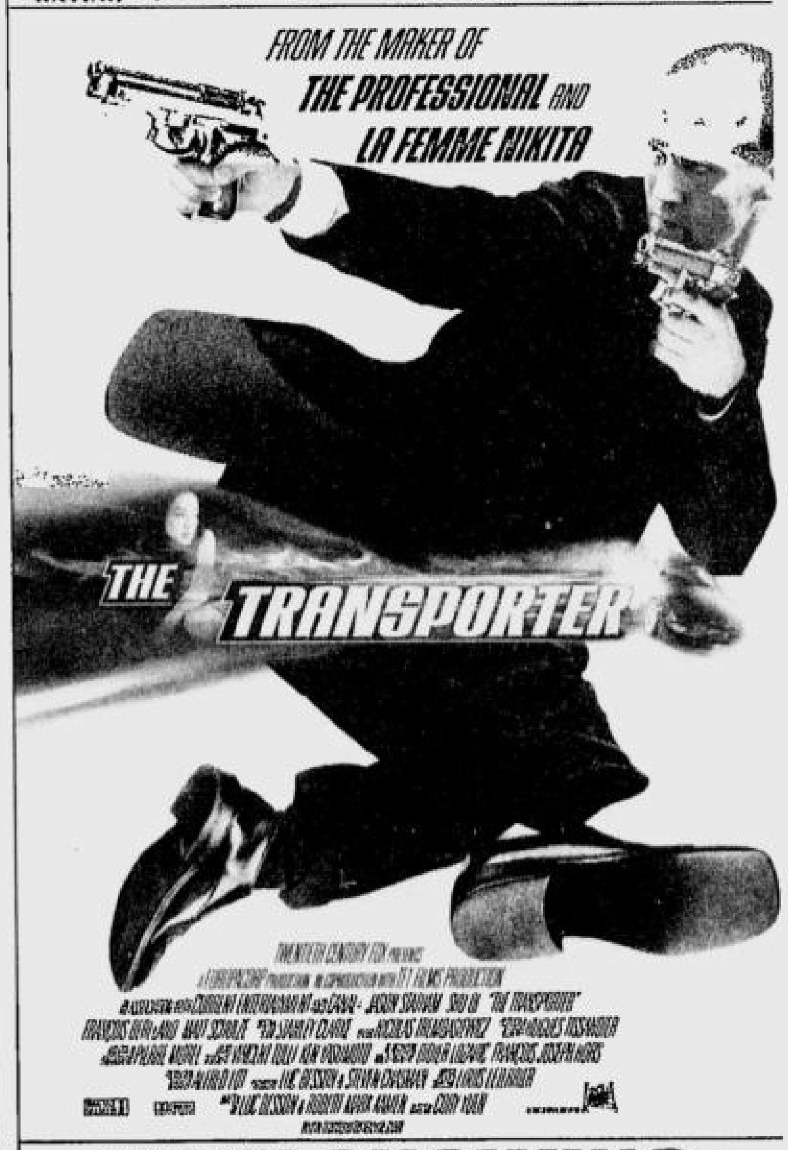
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# MMDA: No-touch policy in traffic violations

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

IF YOU'RE a motorist apprehended for a traffic violation and a traffic enforcer touches you, that's against the law.

The Metro Manila Council has passed a resolution approving the Metro Manila Development Authority's "no physical contact" policy for its enforcers in order to prevent graft and corruption.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said that instead, several traffic enforcers would be armed with digital cameras that they could use to take pictures of the plate numbers of vehicles that violate traffic rules. This way, he said, the enforcers could refrain from interacting much with the apprehended motorists, which could lead to mulcting, arguments or violence.

The pictures of the license plates as well as the traffic violation ticket would be sent to the private car owner or to the vehicle operator, Fernando said. To get the address of the drivers, the MMDA would check with the records of the Land Transportation Office.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios explained that not all vehicles would have their license plates photographed with digital cameras.

"Only vehicles that could cause traffic on the street when apprehended would have their pictures taken," he explained.

Vergel de Dios cited as example the buses caught using the fourth lane of Edsa. Instead of an enforcer ordering the driver to pull over, which would block several lanes, the enforcer would just take a picture of the bus license plates.

For other violations, like those committed in front of the traffic enforcer, the motorist could still be apprehended and issued tickets on the spot.

Vergel de Dios said the MMDA has placed an order for four digital cameras.

# Provincial buses banned from Edsa

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

BUSES plying provincial routes will be banned from passing through Edsa to get to their provincial destinations.

The move is yet another bid by the Metro Manila Development Authority to decongest traffic on a major thoroughfare in Metro Manila.

But the MMDA will be building terminals at the northern and southern parts of the metropolis where the buses could unload passengers, according to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando. He added that the terminals will also be near MRT and LRT stations.

This way, passengers will have easy access to other means of transportation that would to take them to their destinations in the city, and the traffic situation would also improve.

"That will reduce the number of buses along EDSA," Fernando said.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel De Dios said that plans are being prepared for the construction of a terminal in the North Triangle in Quezon City that would be able to hold approximately 10 buses for each bus company.

For the Southern part of Luzon, the MMDA is eyeing the Magallenes area as a terminal site, he added.

Bus terminals along Edsa have been the bane of motorists who complain that the passengers in the terminal, as well as the buses who go in and out of it, aggravate traffic.

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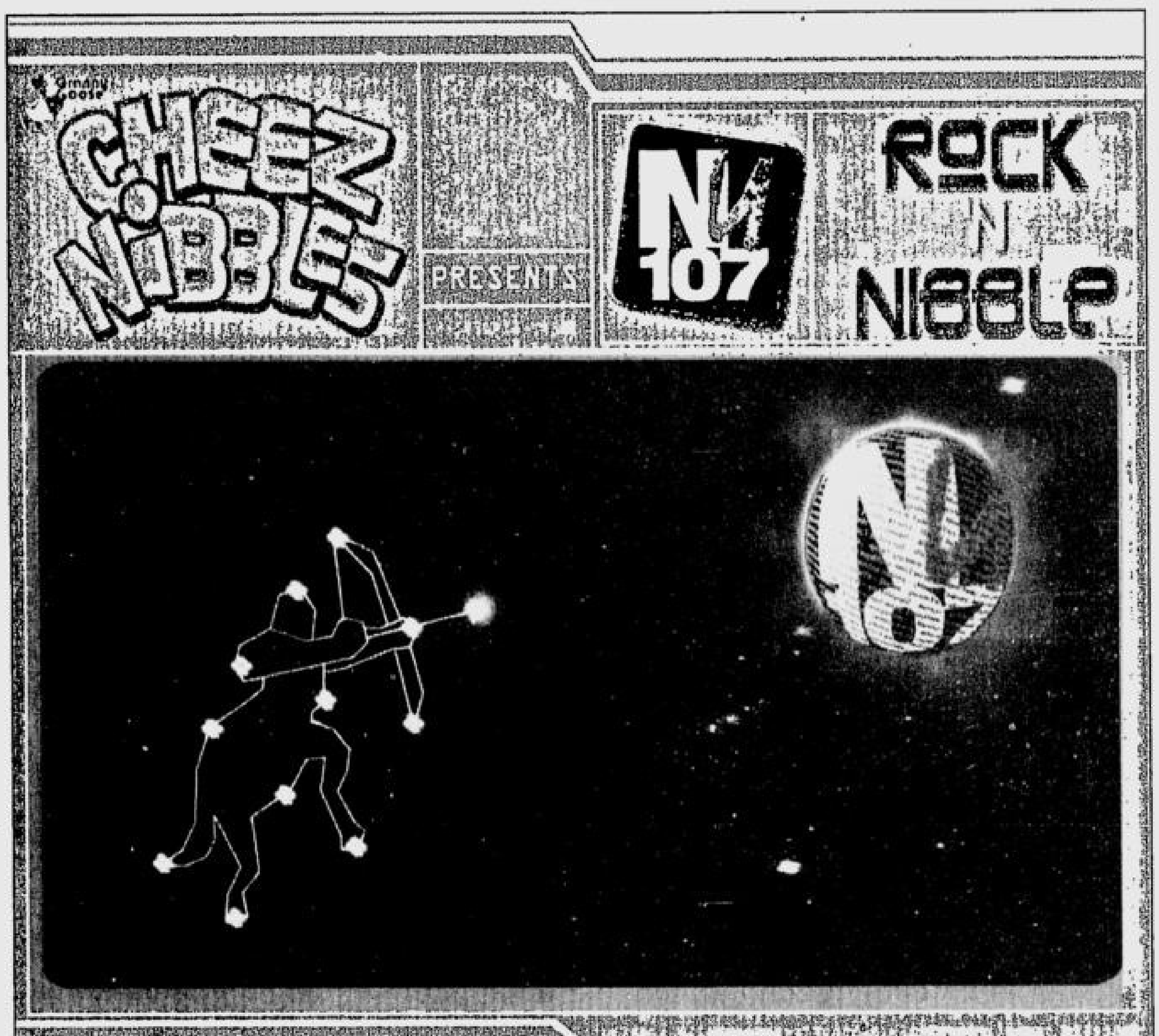

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# Munti yields to truckers

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

THE TRUCK ban in Muntinlupa is suspended from Nov. 9 to Jan. 15 next year, following a series of protest actions from different truck operators.

"The city...is willing to (make) a few sacrifices for the interest of the nation," said Mayor Jaime Fresnedi.

But the mayor urged the Philippine National Construction Corp. to speed up the rehabilitation of the 24-year-old Alabang viaduct whose dangerous condition partially cause the monstrous traffic jam along the Alabang interchange.

"Now that the people of Muntinlupa are ready to take the burden of added traffic volume, I hope the PNCC would also do its part," Fresnedi said.

The PNCC has been in hot water for its failure to fully rehabilitate the viaduct despite complaints from motorists. To address the concerns, it banned trucks weighing more than 20 tons from passing through the elevated structure.

The city government imposed its own truck ban—from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily—since the PNCC prohibition resulted in hellish traffic along the interchange.

The Confederation of Truckers Associations of the Philippines was up in arms over the Muntinlupa ban, saying it would have dire effects on the economy.

# Marcos in bouncing check case

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

A WOMAN said to be a distant relative of the Marcoses was arrested by Makati police on Wednesday for 163 counts of violation of the bouncing check law.

The bail for Lourdes S. Marcos, 43, of GMA, Cavite, was set at P673,000.

Marcos was arrested by Makati and Manila police at about 12:30 p.m on Wednesday at the Imus Municipal Hall in Cavite based on the warrant of arrest for her pending cases for the bouncing checks.

Police said she allegedly issued several checks for more than a million pesos to the Eastern Peninsula Capital Resources Inc., but that all of the checks bounced. Police said Marcos had been doing business with Eastern Peninsula for several years before their relationship turned sour.

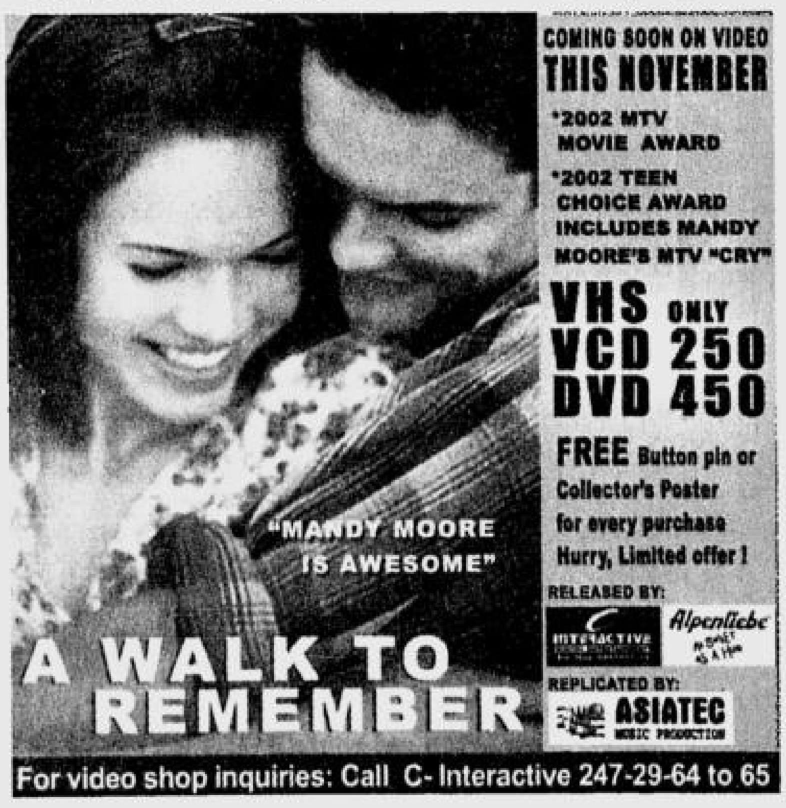
Representatives of Total Provider Inc., located at the Citiland Tower in Pasong Tamo, also went to the police yesterday to complain against Marcos, whom they said had defrauded them of P850,000.

The representatives said they had been partners in a food business with Marcos for the past couple of years, but Marcos allegedly failed to pay them their share of the sales and profits and refused to explain why.

Marcos, detained at the Makati City Jail yesterday, said the people who had her arrested have personal motives against her.

She admitted she lost money and failed to pay her creditors because the business she had previously worked for had gone bankrupt, and she had acted as guarantor for its loans.

She told reporters her husband is a distant relative of the Marcoses, and that he is also related to the former head of the warrant section of the Makati police.



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# Gov't can fund up to ₱210B in deficit–BTr

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said it could finance a budget deficit of up to P210 billion this year given its current cash position and its upcoming domestic borrowings.

The amount is P20 billion more than the P190 billion in cash the government had for deficit financing in October.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said that on top of the available cash, the government was assured of a buffer fund considering its regular auction of government securities and special treasury bond series, and its upcoming borrowings.

Edeza said the government was planning two more fund raising exercises before the end of the year that would help fill its coffers. These were a loan of P10 billion to P20 billion from HSBC to be signed within the next two weeks, and a further offer of small-denominated treasury bills that the government hoped would raise another P1 billion to P10 billion.

Edeza said the borrowing from HSBC had already been approved by the Monetary Board and was now awaiting a mandate from Malacañang. The short-term, small-denominated treasury bills will be sold soon.

Traders, however, suspect that Edeza is "psychologically preparing the financial markets for a higher level of fiscal slippage."

The government has already outstripped two deficit targets it set for the full year. The P166.47 billion deficit as of September had topped an initial annual budget shortfall projection of P130 billion and the revised target of 4 percent of gross domestic product or P155 billion.

Following the release of the September data, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho indicated the government was hoping to peg the deficit to between 4.4 and 4.5 percent of GDP.

The financial markets are expecting this year's deficit to go beyond P200 billion, especially after preliminary figures showed the Bureau of Internal Revenue collections for October falling short of its target.

The BIR collections, according to sources, were P9.6 billion short of its P40-billion target for October.

Records show that aside from the P30 billion the government borrows monthly from the private sector, it also issued P63 billion worth of three-and-five-year retail bonds.

From foreign investors, the government borrowed $750 million in 15-year funds last January, $1.3 billion in seven-year funds last March and May, and $300 million in five-year funds last September.

These foreign borrowings were on top of the $450 million worth of long-term bonds sold to Japanese investors last December and the $117-million one-year loan from Citibank.

Edeza cautioned the market against speculating on the deficit at this point as the numbers, even if they were larger, might still correct in the remaining months.

# Nestlé Phils. CEO retiring in March '03

SANTOS

THE BOARD of Nestlé Philippines Inc. announced the retirement of Juan B. Santos as president and CEO effective March 31, 2003, after 38 years of service. Santos will, however, continue serving the company as chair.

Salvador Pigem, now market head of Nestlé Indonesia, will replace Santos. Pigem is familiar with the operations of Nestlé Philippines, having managed and grown the company's ice cream and chilled business for nearly four years starting in the mid-'90s.

Santos has had a successful career with Nestlé which included assignments in various overseas functions in Switzerland, Thailand and Singapore. He was CEO of the Nestlé Group of Companies in Thailand from 1985 to 1987, after which he was appointed president of Nestlé Philippines. He was appointed NPI chair in 1998. From 1989 to 1995, he acted on concurrent capacity as CEO of Nestlé Singapore Pte. Ltd. and NPI. Santos was due to retire from Nestlé in August 1999 but his term was extended by another three years.

Under his leadership, NPI has grown to be the 10th largest corporation in the Philippines. It is now among the top companies in the Nestlé Group, ranking No. 11 worldwide, No. 2 in the region comprising Asia, Oceania and Africa, and No. 1 in the Asean.

Nestlé continues to expand its operations in the country, investing nearly P5 billion to upgrade its facilities. Three of Nestlé's factories in the Philippines now serve as Asean supply centers, exporting Nestlé products abroad. These are the Cabuyao infant nutrition plant, the filled milk powder plant in Cagayan de Oro and the breakfast cereals factory in Lipa.

# Envoy says US firms to continue investing in RP

**By Abigail L. Ho**

US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone Jr. said American companies would continue to infuse investments into the country, either through new businesses or expansion of existing firms, despite threats of terrorist attacks.

In a news briefing yesterday in Sual, Pangasinan, Ricciardone said President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent visit to the United State was not futile as it generated strong interest in doing business in the Philippines among US investors.

Ricciardone, who was in Pangasinan yesterday to visit Mirant Philippines' coal-fired power plant in Sual, said most likely to benefit from this interest would be the country's call center industry, considered by many US investors as a "sunshine industry" in the country.

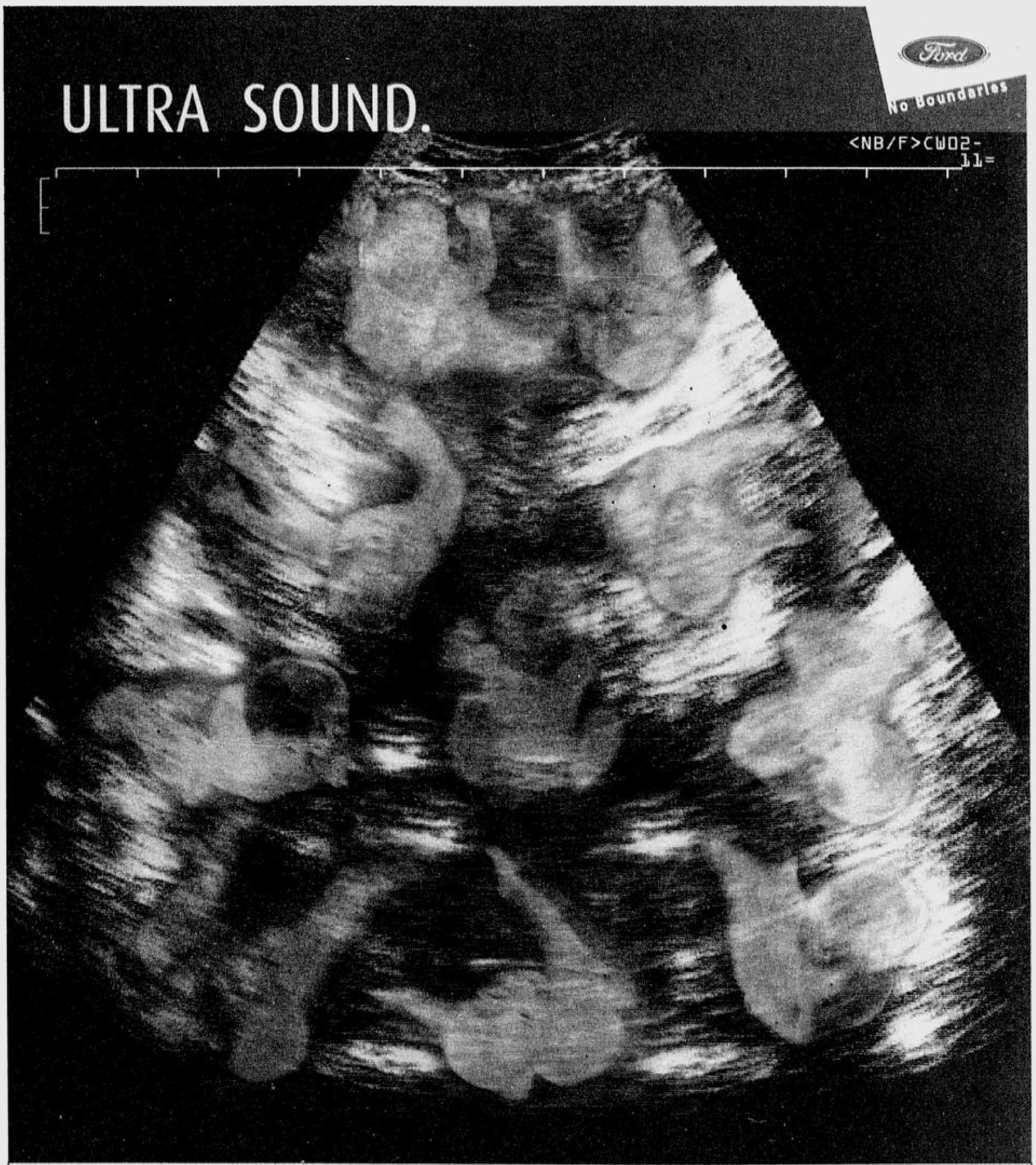
He said new US investments would also most likely come in the form of technology transfers in the industrial and power sectors.

The US ambassador said trade between the Philippines and the United States was "not as strong as it ought to be" so there was still a big room for US private investments in the country to grow.

"This (private investments) is what's going to grow this country out of poverty. Because of this, the US Embassy tries to help by getting facts out (to the US firms). But communicating, dealing with complicated local politics and the peace and order situation are still obstacles to foreign investments," Ricciardone said.

He added that infrastructure problems should also be addressed to encourage foreign firms to bring their businesses into the Philippines.

Although he did not specify which US companies were likely to either put up an office or expand their operations here, Ricciardone said many of the more than 200 US firms that were already in the Philippines would most probably infuse more cash into their businesses in the next few months.



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# Pinoy rice savants win int'l agri prize

By Tessa R. Salazar

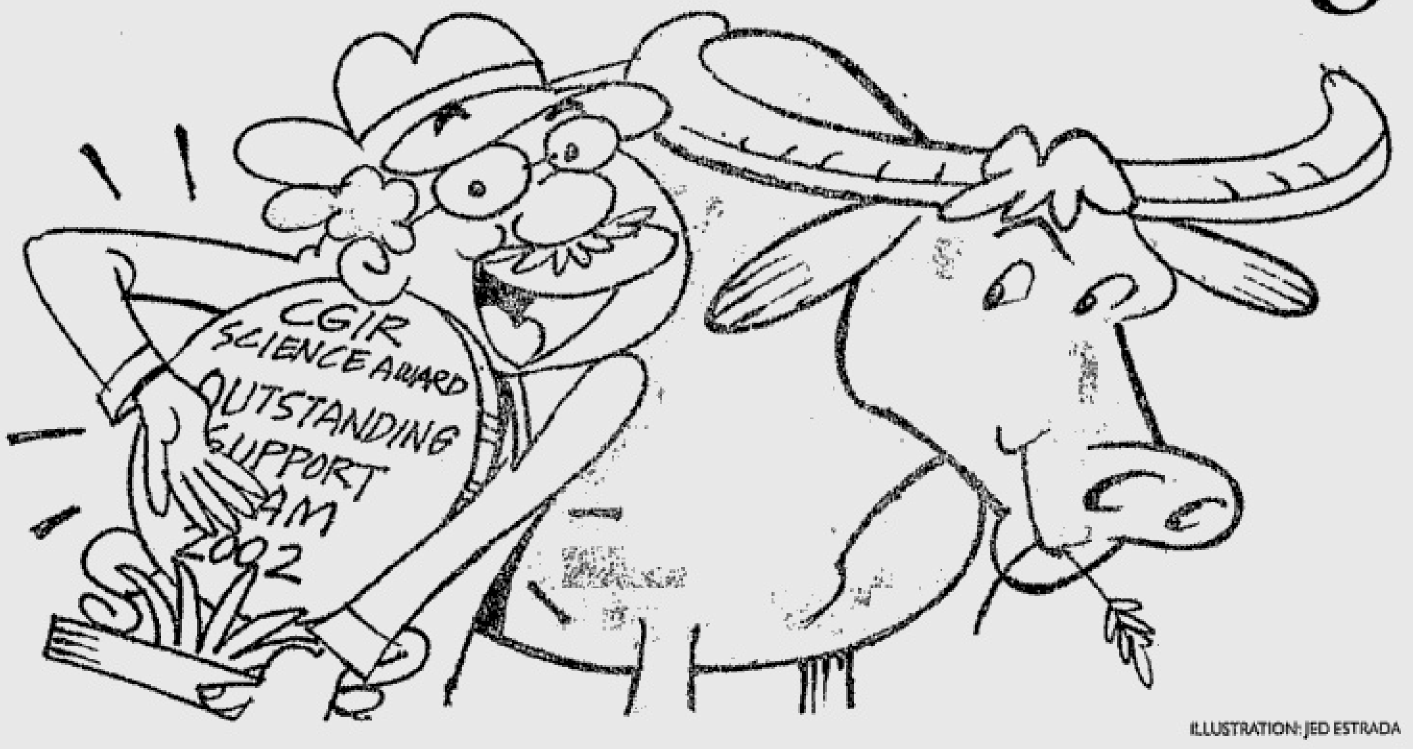


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

RICE is life for half of the world's population, and Asia produces 90 percent of the world's rice. The region is home to 250 million rice farms, most of which are no bigger than a hectare.

As of 1996, Asians were consuming about 300 million tons of rice annually. On the average, each person in Myanmar eats 195 kg of rice annually. In Laos and Cambodia, the average annual individual consumption is 160 kg and in the Philippines it's 100 kg. Hundreds of millions of poor people spend one-half to three-fourths of their income on rice alone.

Rice, just like any crop, is vulnerable to diseases and pests. One of the most widespread and devastating disease is rice blast, a fungus that causes significant crop losses. Outbreaks cut a wide swath of destruction on a regular basis, causing severe food shortages in entire nations.

Experts estimate that rice blasts cause around 11 to 30 percent crop losses annually. This represents a loss of 157 million tons of rice.

## Mixed planting

A team of 10 Filipino scientists from the Philippine-based International Rice Research Institute (Irri) came up with a project to stop the spread of rice blast.

By planting different types of rice alongside each other, the team was able to achieve near total control of the fungal disease. For its effort, the team won the 2002 Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Science Award for Outstanding Support Team.

The team said that "interplanting" rice varieties resulted in a 94-percent reduction in the severity of the disease. Glutinous rice yields in mixture farms were 84 percent higher than in monoculture farms, allowing farmers to earn an average additional profit of $281 per hectare per crop season.

The mixed planting technique also had a long-term benefit: it restored the biodiversity of modern agriculture.

So far, the project has focused on lowland rice-growing areas mostly in the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan. This year, rice interplanting will cover more than 200,000 hectares in 101 counties in Yunnan.

Social scientist Imelda Revilla, who spends half her time in China, said that when the team conducted an impact survey in 2000, farmers queued up for a chance to air their views on how the system affected pest management and increased farmers' income.

"Many said that with the rice mixture system they earned enough to diversify their diets, to renovate their homes and to travel locally," Revilla said.

Revilla, Nancy Castilla, Isabelita T. Ona, Alicia Bordeos, Marietta R. Baraoidan, Veritas Salazar, Maximino Banasihan, Florencio Balenson, Flavio Maghirang and Crisanta Culala comprise the winning 10-member team. The group was given a cash prize of $10,000.

## Other awardees

Other CGIAR awardees were scientists at the India-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Areas and the Syria-based International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas. They won the King Baudouin Award.

Molecular geneticist Marilyn Louise Warburton, Ph.D., won the Promising Young Scientist Award for developing an inexpensive, fast and replicable system that accurately analyzes genetic diversity in corn and wheat seeds using molecular characterization techniques. She works for the Applied Biotechnology Center of the Mexico-based International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center.

Tushaar Shah, a scientist connected with the Sri Lanka-based International Water Management Institute, won the outstanding scientist award for his work on improving water policies, especially sustainable management and use of groundwater resources.

Jeffrey Sayer of the World Wildlife Fund and Bruce Campbell of the Indonesia-based Center for International Forestry Research won the award for outstanding scientific article. Fred Pearce was the winner for outstanding journalism for his article "Desert Harvest" published in New Scientist and "The King of Cowpea."

Christopher Barr, author of "Profits on Paper: Political Economy of Fiber, Finance and Debt in Structural Adjustment and Forestry Reform in Post-Suharto Indonesia" won the award for outstanding communications.

The science award for outstanding partnership went to the Collective Action and Property Rights Program.

The CGIAR is a strategic alliance of 58 members which include 22 developing and 21 industrialized countries, four cosponsors, 16 future harvest centers and civil society organizations.

Its 2001 budget of $337 million was the single largest publicly funded effort to mobilize new agricultural knowledge aimed at crops, ecologies and development needs of poor farmers. Its 8,500 scientists, technicians and support staff work in partnership in more than 100 countries.

## Opposing view

Farmers groups and scientists held a picket in front of the Shangri-La Manila in Makati where the CGIAR annual meeting and awarding ceremony was being held.

"Far from learning from the mistakes of the Green Revolution, the CGIAR is frantically chasing the tail of the latest mythological 'one-technology-fits-all' which is genetic engineering," said the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

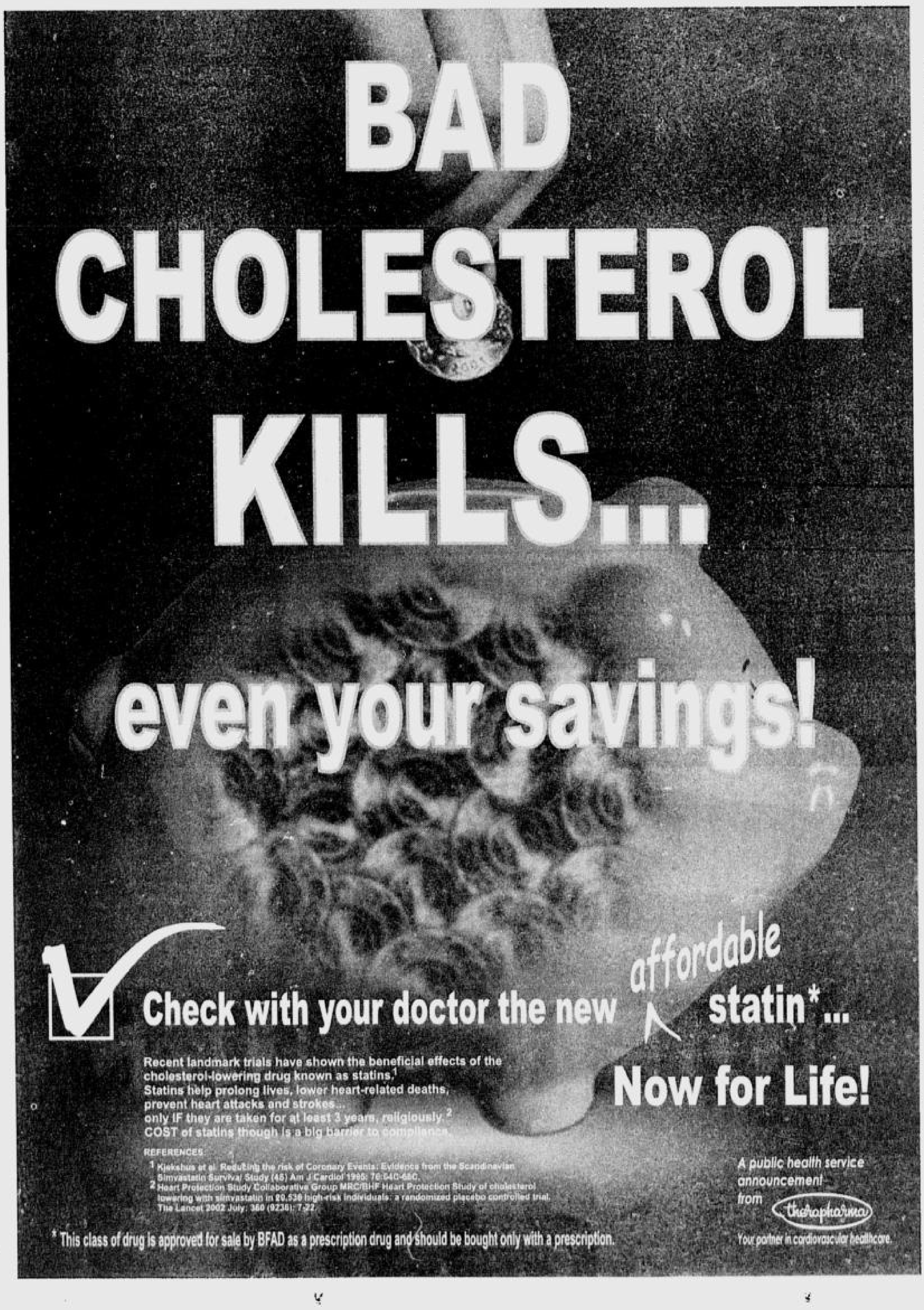
The KMP said that the 2.8 percent average yield per hectare that the CGIAR and the G-7 countries are flaunting is deceiving. Even a farmer without any scientific background can tell that there is great discrepancy between yields in experimental farms and yields in actual fields, it said.

The group called for the dismantling of the CGIAR and the "CGIAR-created Irri."

A "solidarity lunch" featured organic dishes, which the protesters described as "safe food" that don't contain pesticides or genetically modified organisms which are being pushed by the CGIAR.

"By focusing on things like genetic engineering and hybrids, they are once again going for the extra expensive and highly technological goal that will require more and more inputs from farmers and will foster more and more dependency. We do not see any change," said KMP's Rafael Mariano.

But Irri's Duncan Macintosh said it was unfair for the group to blame the Irri for the problem of poverty. He said countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, India and China have been very successful in adopting new technologies from Irri, to the benefit of their farmers.



Recent landmark trials have shown the beneficial effects of the cholesterol-lowering drug known as statins.[1]
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REFERENCES
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# Don't worry, think happy

DISCOVER

*Massie K. Santos*

MY high school chemistry teacher loved to tell our class that we had to keep our brain cells active always. If we didn't keep thinking, she said, our brain cells would vegetate and die, and would not be replaced.

Since it's been shown that humans, on the average, use about five percent of their brains, those who spend their time doing activities that do not involve active mental processing—which would include mental math, brain teasers or following complicated plots and storylines—are using even less than that. And they are growing dumber by the day.

This would probably explain why the list of nominees for the Darwin Awards (www.darwinawards.com), which measures man's fitness to survive in the world by recording every death caused by acts of gross stupidity, grows longer every year.

Case in point: the naval officer who demonstrated why one should never touch an electrical wire unless he was sure the power was off. He grabbed a live wire, fatally electrocuting himself before his students' eyes.

But I digress.

## Think happy

Now scientists are putting a twist to my chem teacher's words. They're saying, don't just think to make brain cells; think HAPPY to make brain cells.

Scientists studying depression have been startled by the apparent finding that neurogenesis—or the creation of brain cells—is related to a person's moods. Basically, the more stressed or depressed a person is, the less likely he is to get any new brain cells in the near future. Neurogenesis is in fact inhibited by negative mental conditions.

The hippocampus, which is the part of the brain associated with learning and memory, has been shown to have lower neurogenesis levels when a person is depressed. This is why the hippocampus is smaller in depressed people than it is in the "mentally happier" (for lack of a better word), but it's a theory that isn't finding many supporters at the moment.

What scientists have found through ongoing studies involving a variety of lab animals is that taking antidepressants will encourage neurogenesis within a month after starting the medication. And the animal's mood lightens, gradually reaching normal levels within two more weeks after that. (Although how anyone establishes an animal's normal emotional levels is beyond me and worthy of another column.)

This is good news since humans on antidepressants follow the exact timeline when going from depression to more balanced, "normal" levels. What's more interesting is that if a person is already extremely stressed when he is given the antidepressant, the brain cells don't die off like they do when a person is stressed and not taking antidepressants.

## Electric shock treatment

Physical exercise and shock treatment have also been shown to promote new brain cell growth, although the latter isn't exactly a run-of-the-mill prescription.

The idea brings back memories of the "Quantum Leap" episode where Sam's memories are fragmented by the electric shock treatment he receives at the hands of a cruel staff member. But the idea is that since the body has its own electrical system, sending an electrical current through it can sometimes help rather than cause further harm.

Although science has yet to prove that thinking good thoughts is a surefire way to get that dream job or win the lottery, it has made a pretty good argument for the relationship between positive thinking and one's physical and emotional well-being.

Which is why it is fitting to end with this story: A researcher taking photographs of certain cells found that the cells would stay put if they were in a solution of detergent and water. Not just any detergent though; this was a job for Joy.

So she went out and bought every single bottle of Joy in her area, lest new and improved versions of the detergent make their way onto supermarket shelves and give her work an untimely end. Now I heard this story from my college biology professor and realized that when that woman's work got out, other labs all over the world must have gone out and bought up their own supplies of Joy to successfully replicate the work. This, of course, begs the question: Did the world ever run out of Joy?

Of course not. And there's no reason for happiness and brain cells to die out anytime in the near future (or ever) either.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

# More good news on RP's science front

*(First of three parts)*

**EUREKA!**

*Queena N. Lee-Chua*

POSITIVE responses from readers poured in after I ran a series of government-initiated projects a few months ago. Here are five more snippets of good news from the pages of the S & T Post, the official newsletter of the DOST.

**Recycling Nestlé rejects.** Nestlé uses an average of six tons of plastic aluminum laminate per month to package its popular products. However, package rejects clog up landfills.

In July 2001, Nestlé Philippines signed an agreement with the Industrial Technology Development Institute for the latter's Materials Science Division (specifically the Special Coatings Research and Development Center) to reprocess their rejects.

The SCRDC has come up with some innovative products from these rejects, such as five-liter wash pails and panel boards, which were displayed last April at an Earth Day exhibit. Researchers are currently working on more applications, such as table tops, ceiling tiles and picture frames.

**Earthworm composting school-on-air.** Like most towns, San Pablo in Laguna generates tons of garbage daily. Improper disposal spreads disease and harms the famous Seven Lakes.

The good news is that the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development launched a program which was aired from May to July 2002 over Angel Radyo dzSP 864 on vermicomposting (a type of soil fertilization which uses the active intervention of earthworms). Lina Villegas, a retired vermiculture expert of the Bureau of Plant Industry (and the so-called "worm lady" of Los Baños), served as technical consultant and Arvin Carandang was the host.

## Organic waste disposal

According to Sheila Ilagan, "The program sought to educate the people of San Pablo about proper organic waste disposal and management through vermicomposting. It hoped that at the end of the sessions, its target beneficiaries would have learned more about environmental protection and in the process got new ideas for backyard livelihood opportunities."

**Natural gas clean-energy plant.** The DENR recently approved a 1,200-megawatt (MW) liquified natural gas power plant project in Alas-asin, Mariveles, Bataan. According to DENR Secretary Alvarez, the project was initiated primarily to address the expected power shortage in the Luzon grid by 2005. Moreover, "the Philippine Energy Plan 2000-2009 projected the need for an additional 9,875 MW installed capacity in the next 10 years nationwide to meet the increasing electricity demand of the economy caused by growing population, industrialization and urbanization."

GNPower Ltd. Co. was granted an Environmental Compliance Certificate and will start construction of the plant on a 45-hectare coastal area in Mariveles. Electricity generated by the plant will be transmitted by a high-voltage direct current submarine cable through Manila Bay into the Metro Manila Power Grid of Meralco.

## Abundant, clean fuel

The good news is that liquified natural gas, primarily methane, is nature's most abundant—and cleanest—hydrocarbon fuel. When burned, it emits virtually no sulfur dioxide and extremely low amounts of nitrogen oxide.

It is also quite efficient, since it "utilizes a combined cycle of generation system which is known to achieve a nearly 60 percent net thermal energy when burned."

The project will also provide economic and social benefits to the community, with 100 to 150 skilled workers permanently employed during its operation, and perhaps 1,400 workers during its construction.

**Inexpensive rice innovation.** Dr. Cesar Mamaril and Joshue Descalsota of the PhilRice in Los Baños developed an award-winning diagnostic tool for farmers to assess the nutrient status of their soil samples.

According to Diego Ramos of PhilRice, "The Minus-One Element Technique (MOET) enables farmers to determine quickly even without the help of technical specialists which nutrients are lacking in the topsoil of their tilled lands."

The good news is that unlike most laboratory-based chemical analysis techniques, MOET does not require any expensive materials. "Instead, it uses simple everyday objects such as plastic pots, soil, commonly available fertilizer formulations and rice seedlings of pregerminated seeds."

This technique garnered the top prize in technology development during a recent Crop Science Society of the Philippines conference. The MOET was pilot-tested in 1998 in Tipas, San Juan, Batangas, and now will be introduced throughout the nation.

**Climate forecasting method.** Weather seems even more capricious these days, thus innovative methods of forecasting its extremes are welcome.

As a graduate student in Idaho State University in 1999, engineer Pablo Baldazo developed a working prototype of the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) modeling after noting the relationship of long-range climate patterns with tree-ring studies conducted outside the Philippines.

After his return here, Dr. Baldazo, with the help of Avelina Ramirez of UP Los Baños, improved his algorithm, which has been adopted by Thelma Acebes and Margaret Bautista of Pagasa.

## Peak signals

FFT picks up all peak signals in any time data series, such as rainfall, river flow, air temperature, relative humidity, sea surface temperature and sea level atmospheric pressure. With Matchcad 2000 computer software, data can be analyzed and computation is completed in just a few minutes. This method is faster than the commonly used auto-regression and moving average modeling method (based on statistical regression).

How reliable is FFT? The good news is that Pagasa researchers discovered that the amount of rainfall recorded from 1951 to 1999 in the agency's 38 rainfall stations was practically the same as FFT's reported forecast values. Pagasa is now using FFT modeling to chart long-range climate patterns.

For more information, call up the Science and Technology Information Institute at 837-2071 to 80 locals 2148 or 2144.

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# Using less water, growing more food

By Charles E. Buban

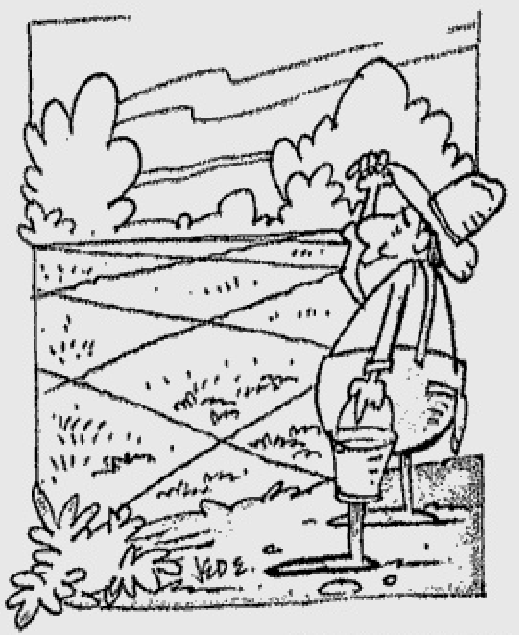


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

IF CURRENT trends in water policy and investment continue or even worsen, the world will soon face threats to food supply, further environmental damage and more health risks for the hundreds of millions of people who lack access to clean water.

This warning came from a report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (Ifpri) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) during the recently concluded 2002 Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) annual meeting in Makati City.

"Water is not like oil. There is no substitute for it. If we continue to take it for granted, much of this planet is going to run short of water or food—or both," warned Dr. Mark Rosegrant, lead author of the report "Global Water Outlook to 2025: Averting an Impending Crisis."

Speaking before the international body of scientists and policy makers, Rosegrant said that unless leaders changed policies and priorities, there will not be enough water for cities, households, the environment or food production in 20 years.

## Water scarcity, food loss

The report foresees that by 2025, water scarcity will cause an annual global loss of 350 million metric tons of food—more than the entire current yearly US grain harvest.

But the crisis is not inevitable, according to Rosegrant, a senior research fellow at the Ifpri.

"The world can both consume less water and reap greater benefits. (But) to achieve sustainable water use, we must act now. The required strategies take not only money and political will, but time as well," he said.

In response to these challenges, the CGIAR has announced a new initiative that brings together development experts and international and national agricultural research communities to come up with solutions to the global water crisis.

Known as the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food, the initiative promises to make a significant impact on solving the world's water problem, especially for people living in poor rural areas.

## Reduce water use

"The program aims to produce more food with less water, while maintaining the health of populations and a responsible environmental balance," explained Frank Rijsberman, IWMI director general and chair of the Water and Food Challenge Program consortium.

The program's initial phase is a $100-million five-year effort in 15 river basins in developing countries that will find ways to improve the productivity of water in agriculture.

It aims to maintain the amount of water used to produce food at year 2000 levels while increasing food production to meet the needs of the growing populations in the developing world.

The program has received the support and endorsement of many donors. Among them are the Netherlands (which pledged $25.1 million over five years), the World Bank and a number of other countries.

"This unique program will ensure that research solutions are linked with the needs of poor farmers. It will create lasting partnerships with NGOs, development and extension services that work in rural areas," said Francisco Reifschneider, CGIAR director.

## More rice research

With 70 percent of all available freshwater supplies used for food production (close to 90 percent in developing countries), it is clear that the biggest potential in gaining more from a dwindling water supply lies in reducing the amount of water used for agriculture.

One of the major efforts today is on rice, a crop relied on by more than 2.7 billion people, mostly Asians.

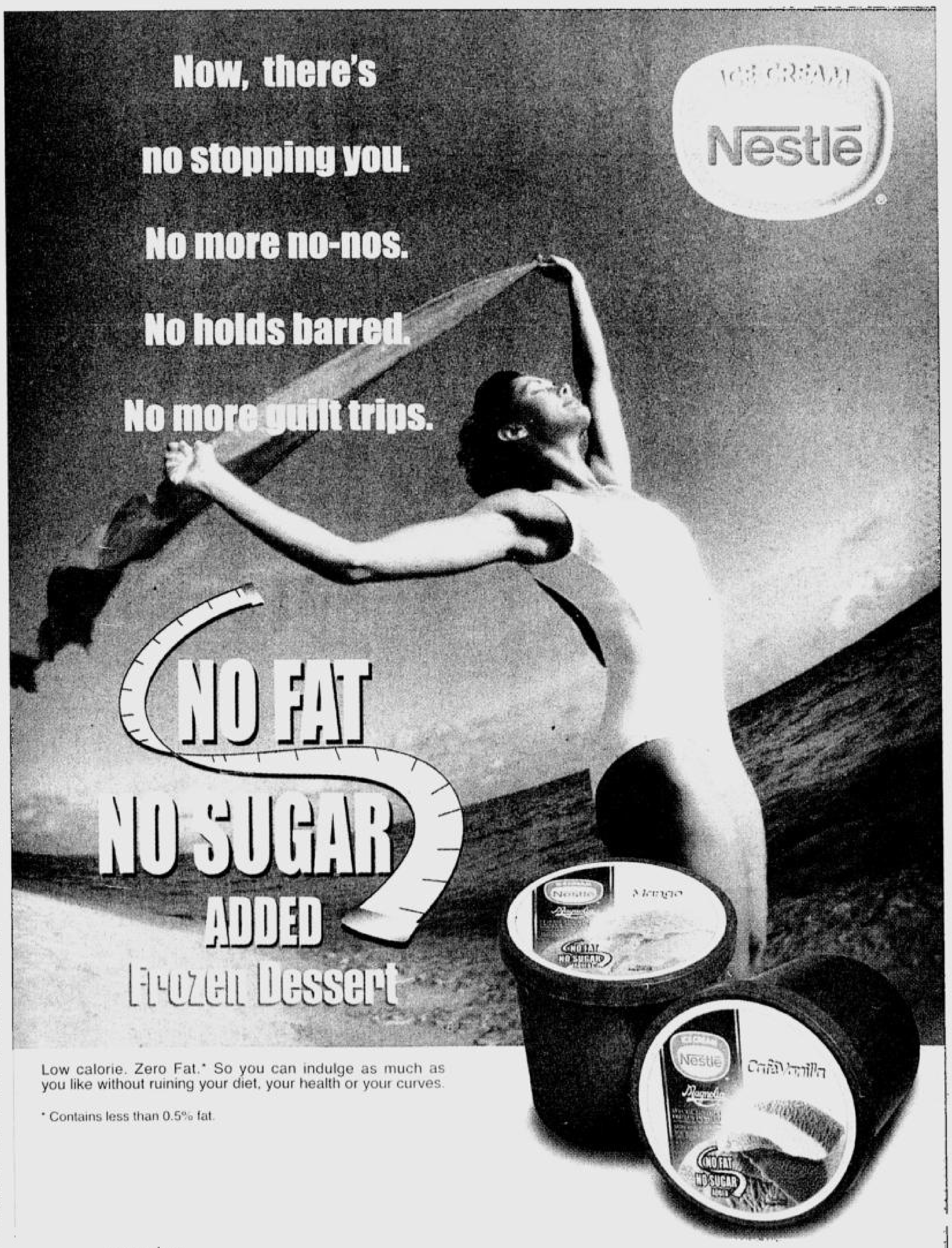
Concerns about the availability of water for the irrigation of rice has led several agencies, including the International Rice Research Institute (Irri) based in Los Baños, Laguna, to look for better ways to grow the food crop without constraining the world's water supply.

"We need a lot of partnerships with international agricultural institutions like the Irri. If we can grow rice with high yield using less water, if we can manage to use that in a very large scale, that could be a major breakthrough," said Peter Hazell, director of Ifpri's Environment and Production Technology.

The solution might lie in a strain of rice, called "aerobic rice," which grows in dry paddies. Indeed, aerobic rice is a viable option when water shortage does not allow the production of lowland rice.

The cultivation of flooded lowland rice requires about 1,300 mm of water, while that of aerobic rice uses only 470 to 644 mm.

Irri's experimental work in several areas in the Philippines has shown its potential to produce very good yields.



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# Pharmaceutical marketing practices and the cost of drugs

**By Rafael R. Castillo, MD**

**MEDICAL FILES**

TIME and again, the pharmaceutical industry has been criticized of forging too close a relationship with medical practitioners, cutting across professional boundaries. There is nothing wrong with that because long-term relationship with the customer is the key success factor of most businesses.

The big problem, some cause-oriented groups think, is that these marketing practices unduly influence the prescribing habits of doctors, to the detriment of the patients. Some even say that it's the patients or end-users who end up footing the bill for the "lavish" marketing practices of drug companies.

I asked the assistance of my research associate, Gener Maulit, to interview three of the country's most respected pharmaceutical marketing directors: Godofredo Ruiz of Boehringer-Ingelheim, Royland Sanchez of Astra-Zeneca and Nomer Garcia of Therapharma.

## Close relationship

All three admitted that a close professional relationship with the physician is an important goal of their marketing activities.

"But it's strictly professional," Ruiz said, adding that his company emphasizes this in the training of their medical representatives. They also strictly adhere to the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines' (Phap) Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices which regulate marketing strategies and relationship-building activities.

Sanchez says relationship with the doctor is especially important when there is minimal product differentiation among the same class of drugs.

He adds: "The medical representative who is more tactful, more courteous and more thoughtful may have an advantage in developing better and longer-lasting relationships with his doctors. Such relationship may lead to an easier acceptance and, thereby, usage of the product by the doctors."

Garcia says they aim for a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship with their doctors. "We maintain our professional distance," he says, "and it's definitely not the type of relationship that dictates *'Pinakain kita, Doc, bukas i-reseta mo itong gamot ko ha'.*"

The three realize that maintaining a good relationship alone will not guarantee that doctors will prescribe their products.

"The major reason a doctor ultimately prescribes, and continues to prescribe, a certain drug is its efficacy, tolerability and affordability," Sanchez says.

## Lavish gifts, treats

Regarding the perception that drug companies pamper their doctors with lavish gifts and treats that unduly influence their prescribing habits, Ruiz admits there might be some basis for this impression.

"There are still some PHAP members (firms) that do not comply with the Code," he says. "However, the number of violations is decreasing because of the vigilance of many companies in reporting (violations) to the PHAP ethics committee."

He explained that multinational companies often conduct internal audits of marketing and sales activities which, in some cases, result in stiff sanctions if unethical practices are documented.

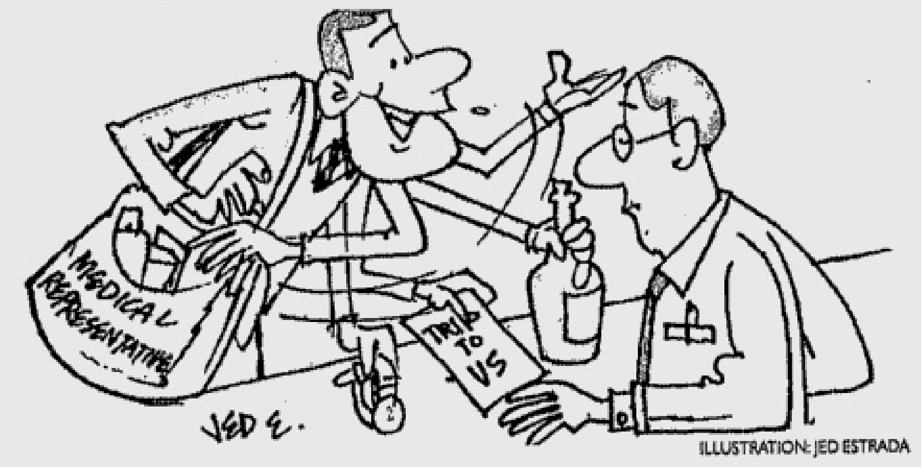

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

According to Garcia, lavish gifts only give short-term results so they go for things which give long-term results like "a sincere relationship with the doctors and providing them with good products that they can prescribe to their patients and would benefit the latter."

## Fine-dining 'restos'

Garcia says they treat doctors to fine-dining restaurants because they are respected partners and such meetings are meant to exchange ideas with the doctors and get feedback on their clinical experience with their products.

"You cannot do that in the clinic," Garcia points out. "They're busy attending to their patients. If you want to spend quality time with them so you could learn from them as well as to impart new information on your products, dining out is an acceptable way to do it."

"The guidelines set by the PHAP are very clear and forthright. Lavish gifts are not allowed," says Sanchez.

AstraZeneca, however, gives honorariums to doctors for acting as speakers. It also sponsors doctors who attend local and international scientific congresses "but all within the guidelines set by the PHAP."

## Sponsorship of trips

Many multinational companies send doctors abroad to attend scientific symposiums and medical congresses for continuing medical education.

"These events are important means so health practitioners could learn about advances in their fields," Ruiz explains.

The PHAP imposes rigid restrictions on drug companies regarding sponsorships.

"In our case," says Sanchez, "the doctors we sponsor are advisers, speakers, consultants or trial investigators. The objective of such sponsorships is the continuing medical education of the doctors (which) will ultimately redound to better patient care."

Therapharma does not sponsor trips to the United States and Europe, but occasionally sends doctors to scientific meetings within Asia.

"Sometimes we have satellite symposiums which present results of clinical studies on our products. This gives them confidence in prescribing these products to their patients since it's evidence-based," Garcia says.

According to the three marketing executives, the PHAP Code of Pharmaceutical Practices is the primary safeguard against unethical marketing practices. This guides the promotion and advertisement of pharmaceutical products directed to health care professionals.

The ethics committee of the association supervises the administration of the Code. In cases of violation, appropriate sanctions exist. Willful disregard for these sanctions are punishable by expulsion of the company from the association.

## Cost of medicines

Do the marketing practices adversely or significantly increase the cost or price of medicines?

Ruiz answers: "Marketing expenses form a very small part of the cost of medicine. The greater proportion comes from costs incurred during research and development, production and importation, including duties and taxes."

Sanchez says their promotional budget and the compensation package of their field force comprise only a very small component of the total cost of the drug.

"The major components of drug cost remain to be research, product development and production," explains Sanchez.

Garcia says their marketing expenses are well within acceptable limits and do not adversely impact on the price of their products. He emphasizes that as a matter of policy, Therapharma advocates pharmacoeconomics, the main goal of which is to ensure marketing of high-quality affordable products.

In conclusion, Sanchez says, "Better and more cost-effective patient care—this is the goal of the government, the medical and healthcare community and the pharmaceutical industry. We are committed to make this vision a reality for all Filipinos."

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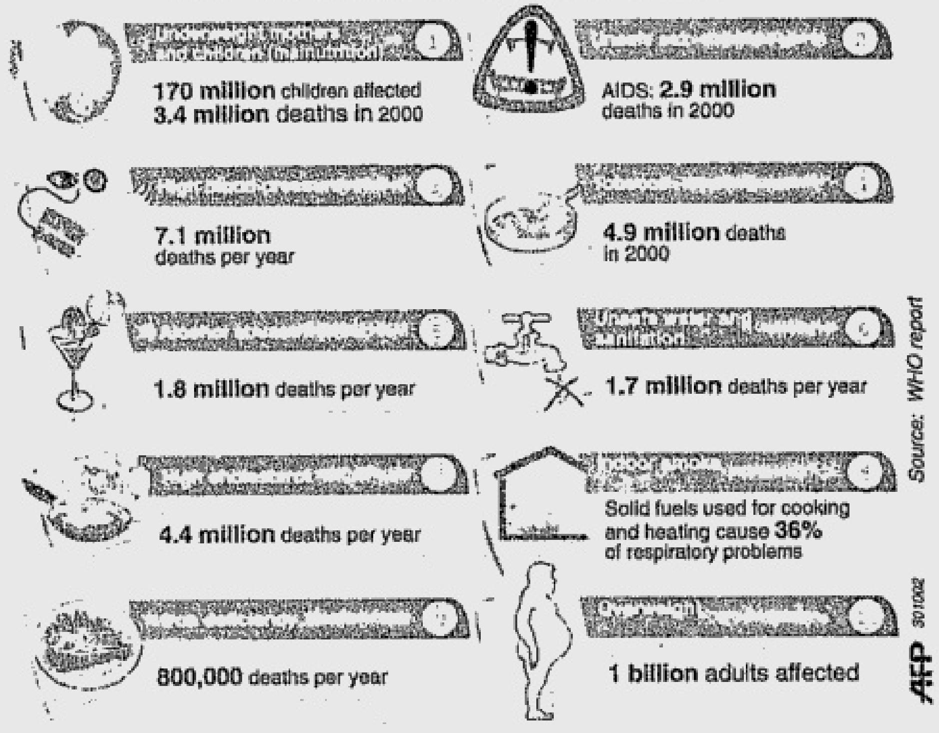
## Top 10 risks to human health



Source: WHO report

AFP 301002

**THE WORLD Health Organization has identified the top 10 health risks which are responsible for 40 percent of the 56 million annual deaths worldwide. It said that if governments tackle these risks properly, at least an extra decade of healthy life could be achieved in even the poorest countries and that people in rich nations could gain another five years of healthy life.**

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# 'Fatty' advice for high-risk heart patients

**By Raul C. E. Morena, MD**
*Contributor*

THE BAD news is that diabetes and other risk factors like high blood pressure and cholesterol, smoking and obesity increase one's risk of a heart attack by three- to six-fold.

The good news is that one can cut this risk remarkably by taking a cholesterol-lowering drug belonging to the statin family...even if one's cholesterol level is still within normal levels.

## Cholesterol

Patients who have heart disease shirk at the mere mention of the word cholesterol. In fairness though to cholesterol, it has some good uses in the body. It is a major component of the cells that make up our body tissues and it also maintains the structural integrity of our nerves.

Cholesterol is also the framework for steroid hormones produced in our body. Steroid hormones include the sex hormones and other natural substances in the body essential for metabolism. As insulators, fat tissues help in maintaining the right body temperature by keeping us warm in cold days and cooler in warm days. Equally important is that fats can be used as energy. Stored as fats in our body, they are mobilized and utilized in times of dieting or starvation, and converted into glucose, the energy source of the body, through the process of gluconeogenesis.

Unfortunately, the ability to be stored as fat reserve is a proverbial double-edged sword. In huge amounts, it can increase weight and lead to obesity. The even bigger concern is that cholesterol can be deposited along the inner lining of the arterial wall, called the endothelium, producing an atherosclerotic plaque.

This atherosclerotic plaque is an aggregate of fat and blood cells sticking in the intima promoting the formation of blood clots, which can cause heart attacks and strokes. The lining covering the plaque can rupture and extrude its fat contents into the circulation triggering blood clot formation. The event can be catastrophic and can be prevented with cholesterol-lowering drugs, even if the blood cholesterol is still within normal levels or just slightly elevated. This is especially true in high-risk patients particularly diabetics.

## Statins

Diabetes and elevated cholesterol make a deadly combination and recent landmark trials with the anticholesterol drug simvastatin show that diabetics can benefit from this drug even in those with just average or normal cholesterol levels. Some diabetes and heart experts even believe that diabetics should be routinely placed on the class of drugs called statins regardless of their cholesterol levels.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

At present, statins are often only prescribed to patients who have heart disease and elevated cholesterol levels. But, new findings from the 20,000 patient Heart Protection Study (HPS) done in the United Kingdom show that statins also significantly reduce the risks of heart attacks and strokes in people who have diabetes, or have narrowing of arteries in their legs, or have had a stroke.

## Substantial benefits

Something which has not been shown in previous studies is that substantial benefits can be expected even among those high-risk patients considered to have "normal" or "low" cholesterol levels. Because of this study, there is now strong evidence that existing treatment guidelines for elevated cholesterol levels should be changed so that—irrespective of the blood cholesterol level—a statin should be considered as standard therapy for anybody at increased risk of either heart attacks or strokes.

The big catch however is that statins have to be taken by the high-risk patient for a long time, usually several years, before he or she benefits from them. Unfortunately, the cost of statins is beyond the reach of the ordinary wage earner.

We're calling on the drug companies distributing statins to be more considerate and lower the price of this life-saving drug. We would like to commend Therapharma for taking the initiative of making their simvastatin (Vidastat) available at half the price compared to other brands. We hope the other companies follow suit.

Checking the blood cholesterol is not enough to have a complete picture of one's fat status. Vital also in lipid evaluation is to determine the triglyceride levels and the fat "transporters" known as High Density Lipoprotein (HDL) and the Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL). HDL and LDL are popularly called "good and bad cholesterol" respectively owing to their function. HDL acts as the policeman by checking the level of LDL and eliminating its excess, and works also as a dispatcher by removing excess fats in the body. On the other hand, LDL is the notorious one; it keeps the fat deposits in the body regardless of excess and worse, it even clogs up the arteries.

## Lifestyle changes

Although anticholesterol drugs may be required in many instances, it cannot be overemphasized that diet and exercise remain the mainstay of combating the ill effects of cholesterol. These so-called lifestyle changes effectively work if patients can only sustain them.

Exercise promotes continuing use of energy of the body allowing fats to be burned instead of being deposited. It also keeps us trim and in perfect health. Perfect, because the body is trained to adapt or adjust, by training its compensatory mechanisms, to adjust to the rigors of exercise. For example, exercise teaches the blood vessels to continually dilate or constrict depending on the amount of blood needed to sustain a good blood flow. It is beneficial because it can tap all the dormant muscles into action, keeping them in good tone. The physical stress allows adequate gaseous exchange, thus replenishing the carbon dioxide in our lungs with fresh air.

Monitoring the calories we take in and restricting fats to less than 30 percent will keep cholesterol at bay. Realistically though, it's hard to calculate and monitor our calorie count. The simple way is to add more vegetables and fruits in our diet. Fibers promote elimination of bad cholesterol in our food. Taking oats, beans, peas, fresh fruits and those vegetables with "psyllium" lowers LDL and increases HDL. Soy foods and its derivative soy drinks and tofu can lower the cholesterol level.

*(Dr. Raul Morena is a consultant in emergency medicine at the Manila Adventist Medical Center)*

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# Fake drugs plague

WE often hear leaders say that a country's real wealth is its people. Human resource is what pushes a nation toward greatness and caring for the citizenry's health is every government's primary task.

In the developing world, however, there looms a grave threat to the survival of people. The menace endangers not just the economy of a country but the lives of millions. It is the distribution of fake drugs.

Fake drugs is the collective term for drug preparations that are substandard quality or illegally imported. They have been adulterated or are made up of inactive or substandard ingredients, bootlegged or unregistered.

## No conscience

The sale and manufacture of fake drugs is a heinous crime. It's bad enough that people in poor countries do not have enough food to keep them alive. Worse, they are slowly being killed by unscrupulous individuals and/or corporate businesses either in government or private who profit from the sufferings of the sick mankind. These people and/or corporate businesses have no conscience.

A recent study released by Britain's Oxford University showed that eight percent of drugs being sold in Philippine drugstores are either fake or contain nonactive ingredients. About P150-300 million worth of fake drugs are confiscated every year by the Bureau of Food and Drugs. Last June, the National Bureau of Investigation raided a firm selling carpets and seized P130,000 worth of fake drugs in Parañaque City. Such information should emphasize how real and serious the problem is.

What effects do fake drugs have on the body? At best, they are useless. At worst, they can kill.

"The disease may even get worse and the patient dies. The patient may develop allergies from the preparation. They may experience adverse effects like vomit, diarrhea or headache and create a cluster of symptoms that may mimic a known disease," says Homobono B. Calleja, MD, director emeritus of St. Luke's Heart Institute and former president of the Philippine Medical Association for four years. His stature in the medical community and years of experience have given Dr. Calleja a firsthand look at how the illegal drugs trade affects ordinary citizens.

## Disastrous effects

"A drug that is not well-researched and studied thoroughly and scientifically can have disastrous effects on the person," he says. "Infection may persist and the disease is not cured or the person taking the fake or substandard drug may have an adverse reaction to the substances incapsulated in the pill." Yet, people buy fake medicines simply because they are affordable.

A major reason fake drugs are bought by the public is that, most often, these drugs are sold at a lower cost. People take these drugs in the hope of being cured—by spending less. "But what is affordable is not necessarily good," Calleja points out. "It is good in a sense that you can afford it. But is the medicine effective? A pharmaceutical preparation may be more costly but if it is effective, in the long run, it is cheaper."

## Detecting fake drugs

Checking the packaging of the drug is one way, like inspecting the label, the manufacturing date and expiry date. If the packet or bottle has signs of tampering, be suspicious. A change in the medicine's color is also a form of evidence. Dr. Calleja cites that a genuine painkiller tablet may easily dissolve in water in minutes while a fake one may not melt even for hours. (Hence, it may found in the stool.)

These are some helpful tips, but generally, it is difficult to detect fake drugs by the untrained eye. Unscupulous operators, they say, make millions from these illegal activities and have poured in huge amounts of investments in printing and packaging machines that almost duplicate the original ones.

For most people, the safe way to get genuine medicines is to buy from reputable drugstores. Vigilance is still the best protection we can have against counterfeit drugs. The country's real wealth is its people and it is up to us to look after one another.

The Department of Health, the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Phils. (PHAP) and the Bureau of Food and Drugs are actively promoting the anti-counterfeit drugs campaign to safeguard the health of Filipinos.

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**The Drugstores Association of the Philippines and the Zuellig Pharma Corp. recently turned over the proceeds of the joint DSAP and ZPC Cash Raffle Bonanza during the 6th DSAP National Convention held at the Manila Hotel in August. Zuellig Pharma sold raffle tickets to raise funds for the benefit of the Circle of Friends Foundation Inc (Coffi). The total cash prize amounting to P109,000 was split between Mary Ann Maranan from Doreen's Pharmacy, Tagum City, and Coffi. Shown are ZPC Group sales manager Danny Cahoy, Coffi secretary Ana Peralta, convention overall chair Celia Carlos, Coffi president Margaretha Gloor and Zuellig Foundation vice chair Reiner W. Gloor.**

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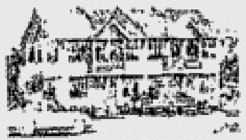

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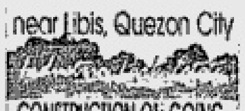

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**INDEPENDENT REALTY CORPORATION** invites interested buyers for its various furniture, fixtures and paintings on **November 12, 2002**, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at its offices at **IRC Bldg., #82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City**. Cash Buyers Only.

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2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

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OFC STAFF 0916-3000356 Hazel

OFC STAFF 09178969388 Byron

OFC STAFF 7279971 Ms. Cu

OFC STAFF 9134470 KAYE

OFC STAFF HAYDEE 7492993

OFC STF 09168337825 JERIC

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late RUBEN A. SISON was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. No. 438 Page No. 04 Book VII Series of 2002 before Notary Public Al Harith D. Sali of Quezon City (PDI-Oct.26,Nov.2&9,2002)

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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SPECIAL ZONE OF PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
# SOCIAL FUND
PHILIPPINES

## INVITATION FOR RE-BID

Date: October 30, 2002
Loan No.: 799P
IFB - 01- 11 - 02

1. The Government of the Philippines through the SZOPAD Social Fund has received a loan from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development toward the cost of SZOPAD Social Fund Project and it intends to apply a portion of this loan to eligible payment for the Off Grid Rural Electrification Project. The approved budget for the contract in Php 29,313,825.57.
2. The SZOPAD Social Fund now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply: delivery, installation, test and commissioning of the entire five (5) Packages of Off-Grid Power System including the conduct of social preparation works for the project beneficiaries, as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Package 1. | Project Code | : | P12-00476 |
| | Project Location | : | Pababag, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi |
| Package 2. | Project Code | : | P11-00854 |
| | Project Location | : | Capual, Luuk, Sulu |
| Package 3. | Project Code | : | P12-00475 |
| | Project Location | : | Lambug, Parangan, P. Sugala, Tawi-Tawi |
| Package 4. | Project Code | : | P12-00477 |
| | Project Location | : | Marang Marang, Languyan, Tawi-Tawi |
| Package 5. | Project Code | : | P11-00855 |
| | Project Location | : | Kabukan, Panglima Tahil, Sulu |

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedures specified in the OPEC Fund for the International Development procurement Guidelines and the Executive Order No. 40 Series of 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from SZOPAD Social Fund and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by eligible bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,000 per copy starting **November 7-14, 2002**. The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
6. Bids must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on **December 16, 2002** at the SZOPAD Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of 2% of the total bid amount.
7. Eligible bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at SZOPAD Social Fund Office on **November 15, 2002** at 1:00 P.M.

Republic of the Philippines
SZOPAD Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2684-86 / 992-2706
Fax (062) 991-9410
E-mail: Edlim@mozcom.com

(Sgd.) **MR. EDWARD I. LIM**
*Executive Director*

(PDI--Nov. 1 & 9, 2002)

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# INQUIRER TRIVIA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

## Male & Female

**Q.** Is 'male' the source of the word 'female?'

**A.** Though the Bible tells that Eve sprung from Adam, the word 'female' does not stem from 'male.' The former derives from the Latin *femella*, 'a woman'; the latter, from another Latin word *masculus*, 'a male.' 'Woman' and 'man,' however, are related words. 'Woman' is a combination of *wif* and *man*, the words for 'wife' and 'human being' in Old English.

**Real Names.** Marie Rachel Taleon (Dawn Zulueta); Winona Horowitz (Winona Ryder); Lorna Aluquin (Lorna Tolentino); Alicia Christian Foster (Jodie Foster); Regina Alatiit (Gina Alajar); Demi Guynes (Demi Moore);

***Classified Odd.*** Betty Jo Hudson, of Wilburn Chapel, Mississippi, seems to have the 'ability' to attract lightning. It all started when she was a child and lightning struck her head and face. Then her parents' house was repeatedly hit by lightning, and in 1957, a jolt finally destroyed the home. In recent years, Betty Jo and husband Ernest have witnessed lightning strike all around their residence. Not only was their house hit three years in a row, but their neighbor's house was also damaged by lightning. Other bolts from the blue killed the Hudson's dog, zapped a tree and a pump, and carved out deep ruts in their yard. So far Betty Jo has escaped serious injury, but she has had several close calls. For instance, one summer the Hudsons were shelling butter beans on their porch when dark clouds gathered and a storm erupted. The couple retreated to their front bedroom only minutes before a bolt of lightning crashed through a window in another bedroom.

### WORD WATCH

**Brontophobia** (bron toh foh bi uh) : fear of thunder and thunderstorms.

(PDI - Nov. 9, 2002)

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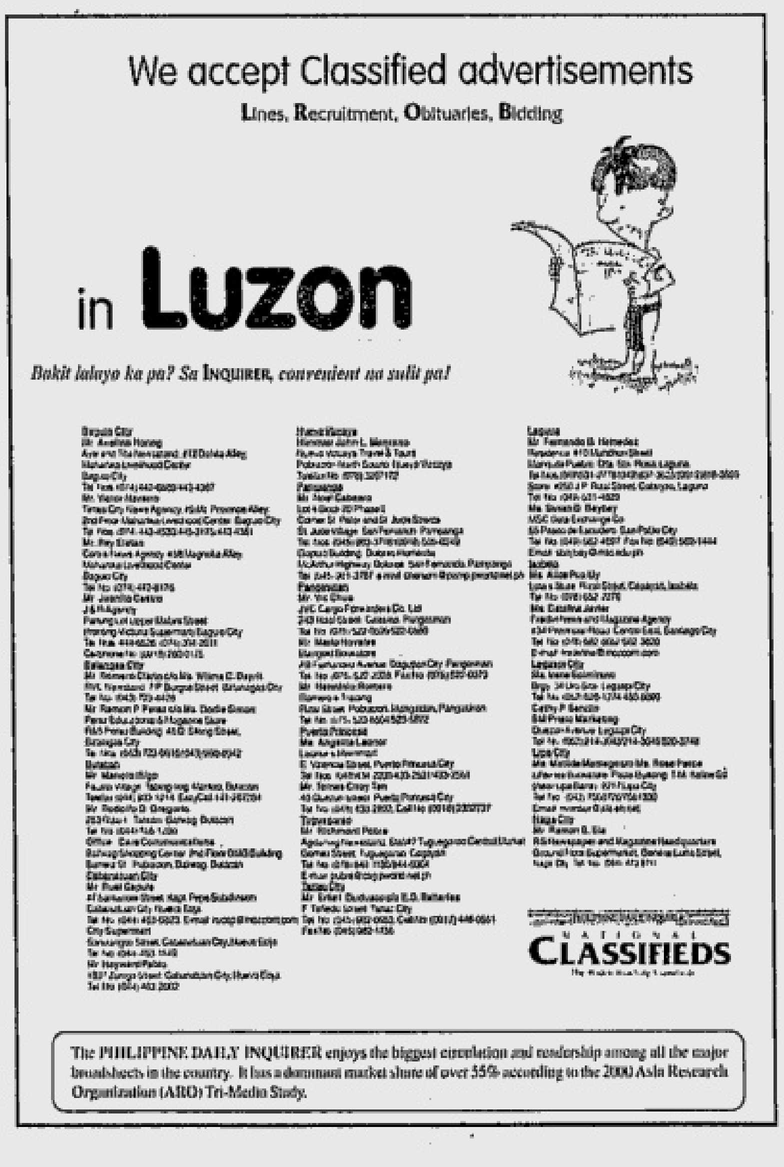

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites registered bidders to participate in the bidding for the following:

I. Security Services for the Department of Labor and Employment Central Office for the period January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003.
II. Janitorial Services for the Department of Labor and Employment Central Office for the period January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003.

Interested bidders may secure registration documents from Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila on **November 8, 2002**. Submission of Registration Requirements is from **November 8, 2002** to **November 22, 2002**.

List of registered bidders shall be posted at the DOLE website and at the Bulletin Boards of the DOLE Building on **November 29, 2002**. Certificate of Registration shall likewise be issued starting on the same date.

Registered bidders may secure forms for eligibility and to bid from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila. Eligibility requirements shall be submitted to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) in a sealed envelope marked with the title of the item/project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters addressed to the BAC on **December 20, 2002 at 12:00 PM** for security services and **December 23, 2002** at **12:00 PM** for janitorial services at the Administrative Service Conference Room, 2nd Floor DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila. Late submission shall not be accepted.

Registered bidders are allowed to attend the pre-bid conference on **December 3, 2002 at 1:30 PM** for security services and **December 4, 2002** at 1:30 P.M. for Janitorial services at the same venue.

The **PUBLIC BIDDING** is on **January 15, 2003 at 1:30 PM** for security services and **January 16, 2003 at 1:30 PM** for janitorial services at the same venue. Deadline for the submission of bids proposal is on or before **1:30 PM** of the same date. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Eligible bidders are required to present their bid proposal personally or through their authorized representatives on the date and time of the bidding. The DOLE-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The approved budget for the projects to be bid is **P8,048,851.34** for security services and **P4,362,675.12** for janitorial services.

For further inquiries/information then please call the Property Division at telephone numbers 527-3480 and 527-3583.

(Sgd.) **BENEDICTO ERNESTO R. BITONIO, JR.**
Chairman, DOLE Bids and Awards Committee
and Assistant Secretary

(PDI - Nov. 9, 2002)

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National Power Corporation
GENERATION COMPANY I

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID UNDER E.O. 40
## AD NO. GENCO 1 2002-03

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Bidding Date:** | December 4, 2002 | Schedule A (10 AM) |
| | December 6, 2002 | Schedule B (10 AM) |
| **Pre-bid Conference:** | November 20, 2002 | Schedule A (9-12 AM) |
| | | Schedule B (2-5 PM) |

The following manufacturers/suppliers/distributors, whether 100% local or at most 40% foreign-owned are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at 4th Floor Conference Room, National Power Corporation GENCO 1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila.

a. Duly licensed individuals/Sole Proprietorship;
b. Partnership or Corporations;
c. Manufacturers/Suppliers/Distributors forming into a joint venture;
d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA)

SOURCE OF FUNDING: INTERNAL CASH GENERATION
APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT TO BE BID:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Schedule A:** | | | |
| Inquiry No. 0206-030 | (Rental of two (2) units Dump Truck with minimum load capacity of 15 tons, 10 wheelers, double differential and in excellent operating condition to be used at BCFTPP, Calaca, Batangas) | 3000 operating hours | P 1,500,000.00 |
| Inquiry No. 0206-032 | (Air Circuit Breaker, S/P for 460 V Switchgear/MCC) | 5 sets | 3,000,000.00 |
| Inquiry No. 0206-037 | (SF6 Gas Circuit Breaker, Tripping Coil and Anti-Pump Coil, S/P for 4.16 KV GEC Alstom MV Switchgear) | 11 sets | 3,177,504.00 |
| **Schedule B:** | | | |
| Inquiry No. 0209-006 | (High Pressure Pump Assy. and S/P & Motor and Hydrovactor Drive Pump Assy. and S/P & Motor) | 1 lot | 4,908,000.00 |
| Inquiry No. 0210-029 | (Travelling Reducer Assy. for Stacker Reclaimer, Manufactured by Ishikawajma-Harima Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.) | 2 assy. | 2,251,447.00 |
| Inquiry No. 0210-039 | (Supply of labor and materials in the total replacement of existing Air-conditioning units for Control room and other offices with three (3) package type water-cooled A/C system) | 1 job | 1,078,000.00 |

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained on the Procurement Section, Administration Division, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per Inquiry No. starting November 11, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amont equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager
Professional Services Department

(PDI - Nov. 9, 2002)

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY is inviting Security Agencies duly licensed by the CSG-SAGSD and with a paid-up capital of not less than P 1,000,000.00 to bid for the security services requirements of select NHA projects. Pre-qualification documents can be obtained from the BGMSD-GSD OFFICE, G/F NHA Main Office Complex, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of the non-refundable amount of P 500.00 starting on **18 November 2002**. Deadline for the submission of Pre-C documents shall be on **25 November 2002** not later than 5:00 PM.

All pre-qualified bidders will be notified of the schedule of issuance of bid forms, pre-bid conference and date of bidding.

The NHA reserves the right to waive any required formality or to reject any or all bids and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
*Chairman*
*Bids and Awards Committee*

(PDI--Nov. 9 & 15, 2002)

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**PHILIPPINES**

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SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
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Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: *sssemail@info.com.ph* • Web site *http://www.sss.gov.ph*

## NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

| | NAME OF BENEFICIARIES | LAST KNOWN ADDRESS | NAME OF SSS MEMBER | DATE OF OF DEMISE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1) | Jocelyn Ellevera | 947 Moyon, Malolos, Bulacan | Reynaldo D. Adriano<br>SS#03-2201211-6 | September 5, 2002 |
| 2) | Flordeliza Lapiz | Unknown | Lucito Agustin<br>SS#08-0715252-0 | March 17, 2000 |
| 3) | Asuncion Manogura Arichea | Wemilco Logpond, Isabela City, Basilan Province | Manuel Arichea<br>SS#10-0040138-1 | April 3, 2002 |
| 4) | Rosario Badao<br>Mirriam Badao | Binucayan, Loreto, Agusan del Sur | Teofanes Badao<br>SS#09-0158625-4 | June 5, 2002 |
| 5) | Benjamin L. Blanco | Guihulngan, Negros Oriental | Romana/Clarita Zoilo Blanco<br>SS#06-1342568-7 | November 28, 2000 |
| 6) | Reymond Biri | Roosevelt Avenue, Quezon City | Gerardo D. Biri<br>SS#03-1985054-3 | May 13, 2002 |
| 7) | Elena Sancilo | Unknown | Toribio Cases<br>SS#03-2243726-7 | August 9, 2002 |
| 8) | Dolores Dairo | Unknown | Manuel Dairo<br>SS#03-1097556-6 | March 13, 2002 |
| 9) | Maribeth, Christian Michaela & Rebecca Fernandez | Manila | Arturo Alejandro I. Fernandez<br>SS#03-1806694-3 | June 10, 2001 |
| 10) | Lilia Cebu Gabilo | Bo. Sta. Cruz, Diliman, Quezon City | Florio H. Gabilo<br>SS#03-2301923-1 | April 19, 2002 |
| 11) | Evelyn M. Jarantilla | Mangga St., Balingasa Rd., Quezon City | Momer N. Jarantilla<br>SS#33-5491869-6 | October 2, 2001 |
| 12) | Felicidad Marquez | 29 Int. 18th Ave., Murphy, Quezon City or 1785 E. Kahilom I, Pandacan, Manila | Rodolfo Lagniton<br>SS#03-0006807-2 | July 25, 2002 |
| 13) | Elena Garcia Leonidas | Unknown | Federico B. Leonidas<br>SS#03-8320020-0 | August 27, 2002 |
| 14) | Remedios Rodel Franco Nino Logmao, Anabelle Logmao | Unknown | Abel N. Logmao<br>SS#04-0417240-8 | September 19, 2002 |
| 15) | Salome Padilla | San Juan St., Mambulok, Brgy. 10, Bacolod City | Ernesto Macapal<br>SS#07-0811357-4 | January 17, 2002 |
| 16) | Floranda | Unknown | Bonifacio Mana ay<br>SS#07-0157496-1 | June 20, 2002 |
| 17) | Arlinda Jopella<br>Richella Melendez<br>Rodolfo Melendez, Jr. | Iloilo City | Rodolfo Melendez<br>SS#09-0026255-3 | May 3, 2002 |
| 18) | Annie Reyes Minimo | Olongapo City | Danilo T. Minimo<br>SS#03-2235449-2 | January 21, 2000 |
| 19) | Imelda Martinez | Metro Manila | Teodoro B. Nartatez<br>SS#03-2529868-1 | August 14, 2002 |
| 20) | Jogeita Ordenesa | Del Monte, Quezon City, Metro Manila | Eduardo Ordenesa<br>SS#07-0901931-8 | May 3, 1997 |
| 21) | Siola Panaligan | Unknown | Agueda Panaligan<br>SS#07-0590789-3 | March 6, 2001 |
| 22) | Bernardila Rubio<br>Bernadeth Rubio<br>Ana Marie Rubio<br>Nino Rubio | Cataghan, Bais, Negros Oriental | Mateo R. Perez<br>SS#03-2090547-4 | June 25, 2002 |
| 23) | Clemencia Roda | Unknown | Migdonio R. Roda<br>SS#03-2323555-2 | July 1, 1989 |
| 24) | Leticia O. Salmingo | La Carlota Crossing Central, La Carlota, Negros Occidental | Antonio Salmingo<br>SS#07-0012695-4 | July 16, 2002 |
| 25) | Manolita Saniban | Unknown | Bienvenido Saniban<br>SS#07-0530684-7 | June 7, 1996 |
| 26) | Nelia Ortiz Glory | 762 Int. 14, Planas, Tondo, Manila | Benedicto Saraosos<br>SS#03-0100357-3 | July 8, 2001 |
| 27) | Virginia O. Sison | 1011 Purok Mining, Angeles City | Norberto C. Sison<br>SS#02-1662528-2 | July 2, 2002 |
| 28) | Judielyn Delima Laigue | 470 Pacheco St., Tondo, Manila | Joel Tabinas<br>SS#03-7615955-9 | July 15, 2002 |
| 29) | Wilma Sotto Vasquez | Metro Gate, Pandayan, Meycauayan, Bulacan | Rudy P. Vasquez<br>SS#03-7528729-9 | March 23, 2002 |
| 30) | Norma Lord | Unknown | Virgilio M. Villagonzalo<br>SS#03-0461861-9 | September 12, 2002 |

- Nothing follows-

(PDI - Nov. 9, 2002)

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*Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS
## INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites prospective bidders to apply for prequalification/eligibility for the Replacement of Existing and Defective PICC - Screw Type, 500 Ton (TR) York Chiller Nos. 2 and 3. Scope of Work includes furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, supervision and other incidentals required to perform: (a) dismantling of existing chiller nos. 2 and 3 and hauling to the designated storage; (b) modification of chiller foundation pads; (c) complete installation of new chillers; and (d) all items necessary to complete the work.

**Chiller Specifications:**

500 Ton Capacity Centrifugal Water Chiller using Refrigerant 123 (R123), 440 volts, 3 phase, 60 Hz complete with all components, fixtures/controllers and materials necessary for operation including among others (a) Hermetic or Open Type compressor-motor assy. & (b) Shell and Tube evaporator and condenser. Each unit must be supplied with unit mounted Variable Speed Drive Starter complete with voltage, current and temperature protection and must be adaptable to the existing chiller set-up in PICC and with total width per unit/frame of not more than 75 inches or maintain a clearance of at least twenty-six (26) inches between chiller units (new and old). All chiller components must be UL listed with minimum power factor of 0.95 at all loads and speeds.

Minimum requirement to prequalify to bid for said project are as follows:

1.0 Local supplier should have locally supplied, installed, tested and commissioned at least one (1) similar unit such as centrifugal chiller using R123 having the same or larger capacity.
2.0 The bidder should have a net financial contracting capacity of at least a total of P13.80 Million computed as follows: NFCC = (Current Assets minus Current Liabilities) * (K) minus (Value of all Outstanding works under on-going contracts including awarded contract yet to be started).
3.0 Must submit a notarized certificate of satisfactory performance signed by the client's authorized signatories. Certification form can be obtained from the AHCPP Secretariat. The Bank reserves the right to validate such certification and shall automatically disqualify any bidder who falsify data on these documents or issue fake certifications.
4.0 If the bidder is not the manufacturer, the bidder should have had for the past 3 years (reckoned from January 2000) a distributorship/dealership contract with the foreign supplier/manufacturer of the chiller to be supplied for the project. The said contract should not expire before December 2004; otherwise, the local supplier should submit a notarized affidavit attesting that the contract shall be extended to a minimum of at least 1 year after the project has been completed and accepted by BSP/PICC. Submit a dated certification from the principal attesting these requirements.
5.0 The manufacturer of the chiller should be ISO 9000 certified.
6.0 Articles of Incorporation and Business Permit.
7.0 Y2001 audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) with Y2001 Income Tax Return.
8.0 Brochure(s) of the item(s) to be offered indicating the model no. and all other necessary information for evaluation purposes.
9.0 Warranty:
    - One year from Start-up or 18 months from shipment whichever comes first for parts including labor.
    - Five years for replacement of compressor, including materials and labor.

**Prequalification Statements/Documents** may be obtained from AHCPP Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A, Mabini corner P. Ocampo Streets, Manila. Date and time of issuance is on October 30 to November 11, 2002 / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn. Cost of form is two hundred pesos per set (P200.00/set). Deadline of submission of Prequalification Documents is on November 18, 2002.

**Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility** shall be issued on December 2, 2002 / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn. at the AHCPP Secretariat together with the issuance of Bid/Tender Documents to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents (P500.00/set)

For inquiries, please call AHCPP Secretariat at tel. no. 524-7011 local 3143.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 Series of 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to prequalification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) **JUAN QUINTOS, JR.**
*Co-Chairman*

(PDI - Oct. 31 & Nov. 9, 2002)

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## CATALINA GAETOS TAN

*Peacefully joined our Creator on October 31, 2002*
*in Vallejo, California, USA at the age of 90.*

Her loving husband **Jose L. Tan** (†); children **Arthur & Rosalita Vizconde, Leticia, Jeffrey & Luz Consuelo Garabato, Peter** (†); grandchildren **Pia Gracinia, John Paul, Alexander & Anthony**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Sunday, November 10, 2002 after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Loyola Memorial Chapels.

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## ROSARIO MARFIL BARRAMEDA

of Canlubang, Laguna
October 10, 1916 – November 5, 2002

*Peacefully joined her Creator and her beloved husband*
***PEDRO MAPOTE BARRAMEDA***
*at the age of 85.*

Her loving children **Ernesto, Myrna, Elsa B. Pichler, Marina B. Bella-Prego, Cecilia Vega, Danny, Raul, Fepot, Editha, Cora, Pete Jr., Sylvia, Rosario, Joe Barr, Loida, Mario, Ramon, George, Oscar, Noel** and children-in-law, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel of CERIS 1-LEDC Subdivision, Canlubang, Laguna.

Cremation would be announced later.

## BONIFACIO GO TONG

**President and CEO**
**Tungsten Industrial Sales, Inc.**

*Peacefully joined his Creator*
*on November 6, 2002 at the age of 59.*

He is survived by his wife **LETICIA**; brothers **VAL, FRANK, PETER** and **ANDRES**; sisters **CRISTY, MARITA, SUSAN** and **LINDA**, in-laws, nephews and nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz, Quezon City, Chapel A-3.

Interment will be on November 12, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. Manila Chinese Cemetery.

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# BUSINESS

## San Miguel brews profits

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

SAN Miguel Corp., Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm, said yesterday its profits jumped by half in the third quarter from last year's depressed levels.

San Miguel—15 percent owned by Japan's Kirin Brewery—said its net profit rose 53 percent to P1.56 billion in the third quarter from last year's third-quarter level.

The company said it expected to sustain the momentum through the upcoming peak festive season.

Analysts said San Miguel, which dominates the domestic market for beer, soft drinks and processed foods, is still on track to meet an internal net income target of about P7.5 billion this year once Christmas spending kicks in.

"With the strong operating results for the first nine months of the year, San Miguel expects to sustain its growth momentum approaching the peak season in the last quarter and remains focused on meeting its full year's targets," the company said in a statement.

Analysts said the company could have benefited from front-loading of supplies by dealers just before a beer price increase took effect at the start of October.

The profit figure was in line with most analysts' estimates, which ranged from P1.3 billion to P1.8 billion for the quarter.

For the first nine months, San Miguel posted a net income of P4.56 billion, lower than the year-earlier P4.8 billion.

However, earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization for the nine-month period to September jumped 25 percent from a year ago to P14.6 billion.

Third-quarter sales revenue was at P32.9 billion, while nine-month net sales revenue was at P99 billion.

The company said sales of beer, soft drinks, some packaging, animal feed and processed meat mainly accounted for the quarter's robust performance.

In the third quarter last year, San Miguel's earnings were hit by charges related to a string of acquisitions, including taking a 65-percent stake in soft-drink maker Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines.

**A WORKER sorts out empty San Miguel beer bottles at a brewer just outside the capital region. San Miguel, Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm, has disclosed that its profits jumped by half in the third quarter from last year's depressed levels.**

San Miguel's A shares ended flat on Friday at P58.5, while its B shares fell 0.78 percent to P64, on a wider market that closed down 0.87 percent.

The A shares jumped 11.34 percent and its B shares leapt 14.7 percent in the third quarter, in a market that fell 2.3 percent.

*With a report from Reuters*

## 2 PLDT directors seen yielding to independents

**By Abigail L. Ho**

AT LEAST two board members of No. 1 carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. may have to yield their seats to independent directors if the company decides to comply with new listing standards set by the New York Stock Exchange, PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said yesterday.

Pangilinan stressed, however, that the current board would be the one to decide the extent of PLDT's compliance with the NYSE's standards.

As a company with American depositary receipts listed on the NYSE, he explained, PLDT has an obligation to abide by the NYSE's new rules.

**PANGILINAN: Two may have to go.**

The NYSE's new rules call for more independent directors to be named to the PLDT board.

PLDT's current board consists of five independent directors and eight management directors.

If the board agrees to comply with the NYSE's new listing standards, two management seats will have to be yielded to independent directors—people with "no material or commercial relations between themselves and the company."

Another suggestion is the formation of three core committees: audit, compensation and nomination.

David Nugent, spokesperson of PLDT sister firm Metro Pacific Corp., said the audit committee would be in charge of assigning an internal auditor, while the compensation committee would ensure that members of the board would not set their own compensation standards.

The nomination committee will be in charge of reviewing all prospective candidates to the PLDT board.

Nugent said these would be three-person committees with at least one independent director as a member.

The audit committee, ideally, should have all independent directors as members.

"Of course, the ultimate is that the shareholders will have to approve that, then the (chief executive officer) and (chief finance officer) will certify as to the accuracy and completeness of financial statements that are issued under certain functions. There are significant penalties and jail sentences that will result if there is a misrepresentation or misstatement of financial statements," he said.

## Petron posts ₱1.84B in nine-month net income

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

PETRON Corp. yesterday reported a net income of P1.84 billion for the first nine months of the year, up 118 percent from P842 million in the same period last year.

Petron corporate communications manager Virginia Ruivivar said in a statement that the profit increase meant that "the strategic initiatives we have implemented to expand our market continued to reap benefits for the company."

Petron data show that the local oil giant's stockholders are earning 10 percent on their equity as of end-September.

Audited figures show that Petron stockholders enjoyed a 7-percent return on equity in end-2001.

"Our profit level is gradually returning to normal although this is still way below historical standards." Ruivivar said.

She said Petron registered an income of P4.2 billion just before the oil industry's deregulation in 1996.

The oil giant posted a net profit of P1.22 billion for 2001, a turnaround from a net loss of P2.5 billion in 2000.

Petron sold 36.4 million barrels from January to September, an increase of 3 percent from 35.4 million barrels in the same period last year.

However, the firm's revenues slid by 2 percent to P66.1 billion in the first nine months this year from last year's P67.4 billion.

From July to September, Petron posted a net income of P602 million or 256 percent higher than P169 million in the same period in 2001.

Ruivivar said the company's cost discipline and sound financial management continued to contribute to the company's bottom line.

## Shares end down as profit-taking hits blue chips

SHARES ended down yesterday, as investors cashed in on recent gains, pulling stocks like SM Prime Inc. sharply lower.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed down 0.9 percent at 1,074.12 following Thursday's 2.2-percent gain.

The index has risen nearly 4 percent over the past two sessions.

Profit-taking in blue chips led Friday's decline.

SM Prime lost 5.2 percent to P5.50 on profit-taking, having gained 5.5 percent over the past three sessions.

San Miguel B lost 0.8 percent to P64 also on profit-taking. On Thursday, the stock rose 2.4 percent on market talk that its third-quarter net profit rose 50 percent on year.

"Normally, the month of November should be a time when investors are positioning in the market for next year," KGI Securities analyst Elline Salvatierra told Dow Jones Newswires. "But we have to look at the prospects, and the country isn't really in good shape right now."

Salvatierra said ratings agencies were reviewing the country's outlook after the government failed to control the fiscal deficit.

Last month, Standard & Poor's adjusted its rating on the Philippines' outlook to negative from stable, citing its fiscal problems.

Salvatierra said the euphoria of the previous session in response to the half-percentage-point cut in key US interest rates vanished Friday after Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura hinted that monetary authorities aren't inclined to take their cue from the Fed.

"The rate cut in the US won't have an effect here because the central bank won't match the Fed's move," she said.

The central bank's reluctance to cut rates stems from the immense liquidity in the system.

Wall Street's pullback Thursday and investors' preference to stay liquid ahead of the weekend also resulted in the liquidation of some holdings, Salvatierra said.

*Reuters*

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, November 8, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 10,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 18.75 | 18.75 | 18.75 | 18.75 | 21,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 43 | 43 | 42.5 | 42.5 | 113,700 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 2,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 89,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 32 | 33 | 31.5 | 32 | 132,600 |
| Philippine National Bank | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 1,900 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 367,300 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICE | | | | | |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 910 | 910 | 900 | 900 | 1,090 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 9,100 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.44 | 0.47 | 0.44 | 0.46 | 10,580,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 427.5 | 427.5 | 415 | 417.5 | 380 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.024 | 0.025 | 0.024 | 0.025 | 2,800,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.018 | 0.018 | 0.018 | 0.018 | 1,100,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 3.65 | 3.8 | 3.65 | 3.8 | 36,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 234 | 244 | 234 | 244 | 305,780 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 23,000,000 |
| POWER & ENERGY | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 16.25 | 16.25 | 15 | 15 | 5,200 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20 | 20 | 1,291,400 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.56 | 1.6 | 409,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.22 | 185,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.24 | 2.24 | 210,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 29,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 10,000 |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Cosmos Bottling Corp. | 3.6 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 4.5 | 5,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 14 | 14 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 178,200 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 10,500 |
| San Miguel Pure Foods A | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 800 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 58.5 | 58.5 | 58 | 58.5 | 770,900 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 64.5 | 64.5 | 64 | 64 | 645,600 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 4.8 | 4.85 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 64,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.42 | 2.46 | 2.32 | 2.42 | 2,677,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 210,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 5,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.2 | 0.21 | 890,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.155 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 220,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.18 | 0.2 | 0.18 | 0.2 | 340,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 10,600,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 10,000,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs. Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13 | 13 | 340,400 |
| Ionics Inc. | 2 | 2 | 1.98 | 1.98 | 12,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 278,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 470,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 50,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 450,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 600,000 |
| Tanduay Holdings Inc. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 10,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 3,700,000 |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING | | | | | |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 1.24 | 1.24 | 1.24 | 1.24 | 5,000 |
| Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc. | 4.5 | 4.95 | 4.5 | 4.95 | 30,000 |
| Interphil Labs Inc. A | 1.86 | 1.9 | 1.84 | 1.9 | 833,000 |
| Interphil Labs Inc. B | 1.88 | 1.9 | 1.88 | 1.88 | 697,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 200,000 |
| Pryce Corp. | 0.085 | 0.085 | 0.085 | 0.085 | 10,000,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10 | 10 | 198,000 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 450,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 80,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr) | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 35,000 |
| Jollibee Warrants | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 20,100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 2,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| OTHERS | | | | | |
| Centro Escolar University | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 1,000 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5 | 5.1 | 3,373,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 200,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 0.96 | 0.96 | 0.93 | 0.94 | 11,510,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 1.96 | 1.96 | 1.96 | 1.96 | 50,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 14,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 4,836,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 200,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 5,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 300,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 1,700,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 800,000 |

## CURRENCIES

| Nov. 8, 2002<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.990688 | 1.000000 | 52.8990 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008178 | 0.008255 | 0.4367 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.564989 | 1.579700 | 83.5646 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.127029 | 0.128223 | 6.7829 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.683186 | 0.689608 | 36.4796 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.636648 | 0.642632 | 33.9946 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.562252 | 0.567537 | 30.0221 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.561232 | 0.566508 | 29.9677 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.627958 | 2.652661 | 140.3231 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.264169 | 0.266652 | 14.1056 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.559552 | 0.564812 | 29.8780 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000108 | 0.000109 | 0.0058 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.022938 | 0.023154 | 1.2248 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.269743 | 0.272279 | 14.4033 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000808 | 0.000816 | 0.0432 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.009400 | 53.3963 |
| Argentina | Real | 0.279855 | 0.282486 | 14.9432 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.274125 | 0.276702 | 14.6373 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134508 | 0.135873 | 7.1875 |
| India | Rupee | 0.020537 | 0.020730 | 1.0966 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.260639 | 0.263089 | 13.9171 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.096652 | 0.097561 | 5.1609 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.494848 | 0.499500 | 26.4231 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.136372 | 0.137654 | 7.2818 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.016935 | 0.017094 | 0.9043 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.101378 | 0.102331 | 5.4132 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.109236 | 0.019417 | 1.0271 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.019236 | 0.019417 | 1.0271 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.028758 | 0.029028 | 1.5356 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000721 | 0.000728 | 0.0385 |

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## SEC approves builder's IPO

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the application of small construction firm Supercity Realty Development Corp. to undertake an initial public offering to raise as much as P50 million.

Under the proposed IPO, Supercity—30 percent owned by businessman Wilfredo Uy—is offering for subscription 50 million new common shares at a price of P1.00 to P1.10.

At present, the company's authorized capital stands at P155 million consisting of 155 million common shares with a par value of P1 per share. Out of the authorized capital, 60 million shares are issued and outstanding. *Elena R. Torrijos*

## Neda bucks DTI plan to delay tariff cuts

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority is resisting the trade department's efforts to delay tariff cuts covering a wide range of products to rein in the government's growing budget deficit.

A person familiar with the matter said the government had yet to firm up its policy of deferring its tariff reduction program because of Neda's position to pursue trade liberalization.

The DTI wants to postpone the scheduled reduction in the country's tariffs because a number of local industries have been clamoring for an extended protection from cheap imports. The main reason, however, is the government's budget deficit woes.

While the trade department has agreed to proceed with the drop in tariffs on intra-Asean goods to no more than 5 percent starting next year, except for petrochemicals and other sensitive products, it has pushed for a delay in tariff cuts on most favored nation rates for non-Asean countries that are also set to fall to a maximum of 5 percent by 2004. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

## Prices to rise in line with fuel, BSP says

CONSUMER prices may start rising in the coming months in reaction to increases in petroleum prices, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"Inflation is bottoming out. We are now taking into account increases in the price of oil," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a news briefing yesterday.

"I think the impact of the oil price hike was delayed, so it may have to catch up with inflation in succeeding months," Buenaventura told reporters.

Petroleum prices have risen five times so far this year by an average P2.85 a liter.

The central bank expects these adjustments to push up the prices of basic commodities, leading to higher inflation in the coming months.

Inflation has stood at an average 3.2 percent in the first 10 months of the year. *Clarissa S. Batino* élan

*[é la'] flair, distinction, class*

*Editor* **Marge Enriquez**
*Copy Editor* **Emmie Velarde**
Art Director **Howard Borja**

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Taking Italian food beyond the unexpected C7

# How to cope with disasters

By Marge C. Enriquez

**HOW do we cope with a disaster that will have an almost instant effect on our lives, on the whole country, and even on the whole world?**

Extreme situations require a peaceful mind, a sensible intellect and time to be able to create and choose the appropriate response.

Indian lecturer Ramesh Shah said that in the long run, so that we might cope, disasters would teach to us develop our innate powers.

In a discussion of disaster management during a retreat at the Brahma Kumaris University, a United Nations-affiliated NGO, Shah reminded his listeners that nobody is ever given a warning before a disaster strikes.

He related the story of a Sept. 11 casualty who worked on the 64th floor of the World Trade Center. Officemates urged the woman to run as soon as the first plane crashed into the first tower. The woman wanted to finish her work. Unlike her colleagues who had escaped death by dropping everything and getting out of the building, the woman died. Shah posed the question: "What is our state of mind during a calamity? Are we ready to let go of our possessions, responsibilities and relationships? I know of friends and relatives who died remembering everything but God."

Next he cited the story of Socrates, who died of poisoning. In his last moments Plato asked if Socrates had any unfulfilled desires. The dying philosopher said his wife borrowed three chickens from a neighbor and wanted to be sure his wife would pay the debt.

"That was a sorrowful end," said Shah.

## Wrath of nature

Shah enumerated three kinds of disaster: natural, social and economic.

Nature is the great leveler, he said. Neither the rich nor the poor is spared from her wrath.

He told of a colleague who invested in several millions to build a house and an Ayurvedic hospital in West Gujarat. For one night, he enjoyed his bed. The next day, an earthquake hit the region. Fortunately, the man had practiced meditation, which gave him the presence of mind, calmness and patience to cope.

Social disaster is a result of moral anarchy and a total breakdown of values. Shah cited the example of India and Pakistan, which at the beginning of the separatist movement didn't have to shed any blood.

"Today they try to kill each other. Many people have lost their families. A civil war is imminent because of the breakdown of social order and lack of respect for society's rules and regulations."

As for economic disaster, Shah said it starts simply with the decreasing value of money in a short span of time. He recalled visiting Mexico with a 15 million-peso note. He thought he was rich, he said, but the value of his note was a total of US$15. On the other hand, he related, a tourist began a 12-day visit to Russia when the exchange rate was 345 rubles to US$1. At the end of the short trip, the dollar was selling at 600 rubbles.

In these unstable times, the most common reactions are fear and anger, Shah pointed out. These negative emotions shut down our capacity to make intelligent decisions. He stressed the importance of taking of stock of our inner strength. "That's the only thing we could have that will not go up in smoke."

## Core values

There is a need to return to the core values that our lives should be based on, Shah said.

"Within every single human soul are the original qualities of peace, purity and truth.

Because of our moods and/or situations, there are fluctuations in our ability to benefit from these qualities. We do experience them, but not enough to stabilize us. Nor are we able to develop them to the extent that we would like to."

He said the way to replenish these inner powers is through a personal connection with the Supreme Force, God. Then we are able to draw His powers. He suggested starting the day with the simple practice of recharging our "battery," or connection. If we "recharge" again and again during the day, we are able to protect ourselves from all variable influences.

## Mother of all powers

The first power we need to cultivate is the power to withdraw, Shah said.

"Think of the turtle that comes out of its shell, moves around and does what it needs to do then goes back inside the shell. It is impossible for us to run away from certain situations. But we need to build a mechanism by which we can protect ourselves. Being able to turn inwards and come back to our center even for a moment, then we come outside with stability and with greater capability and strength to do the right things."

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

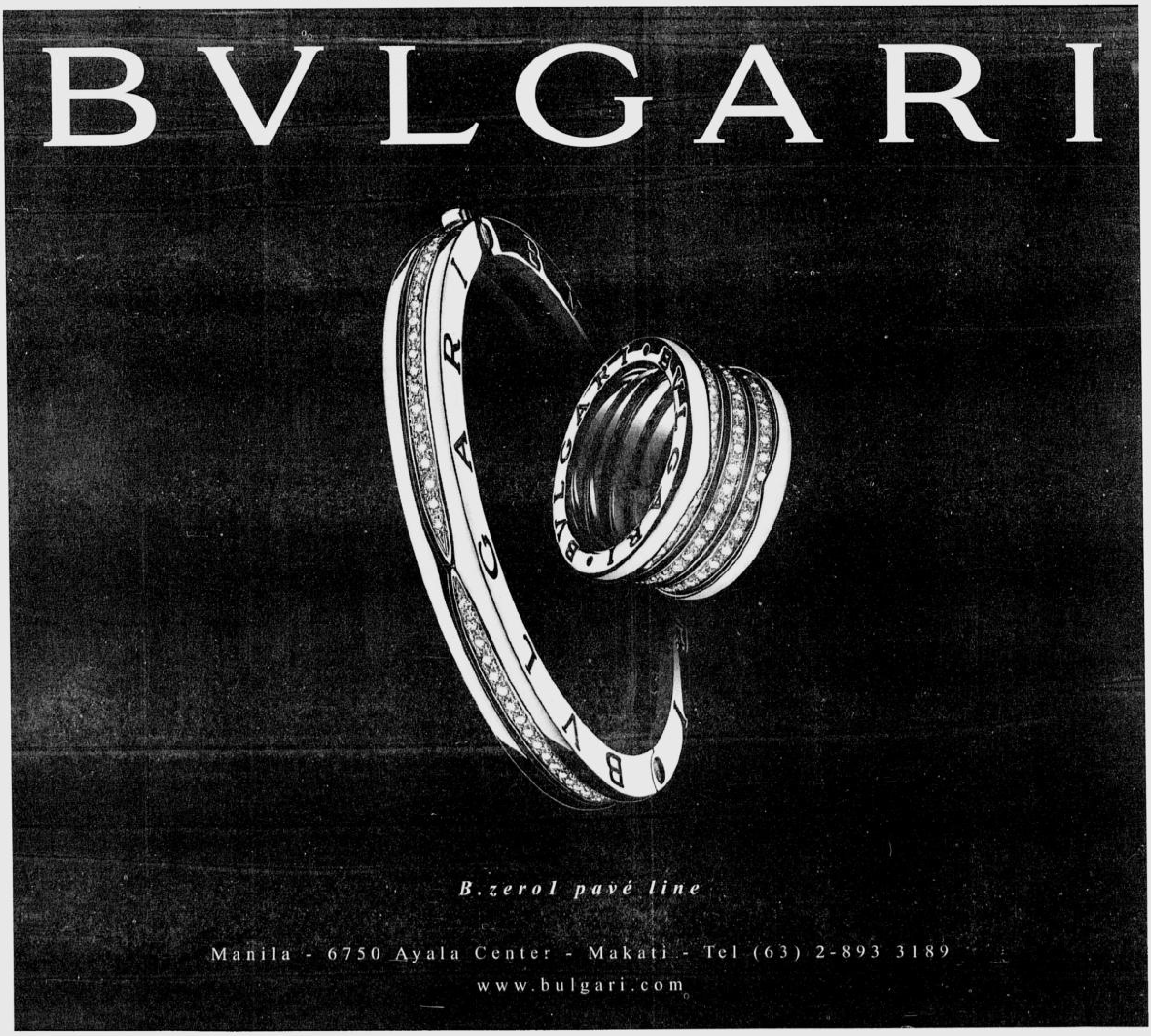
> 'Inner strength is the only thing that will not go up in smoke'

The power to withdraw leads to another skill, Shah continued: the ability to let go.

"Each day brings with it a thousand experiences. We have to find a way of keeping things that are useful to us, but also of dispensing with the things that hold us down. It's like trying to put things in a suitcase. We don't have infinite space in our consciousness. There's only a tiny and precious amount of space, so it is crucial to decide what we need and what we have to let go."

When we let go, Shah maintained, we are more focused. And another power grows within us: tolerance, the mother of all powers.

"Tolerance is the ability to remain undisturbed by any event going in and around us, and to respond to those events positively," he explained. "First we have to tolerate our own reactions by consciously disengaging from the thoughts and feelings that accompany our responses. Tolerating others or unpleasant situations helps remind us that we are simply watching a drama."



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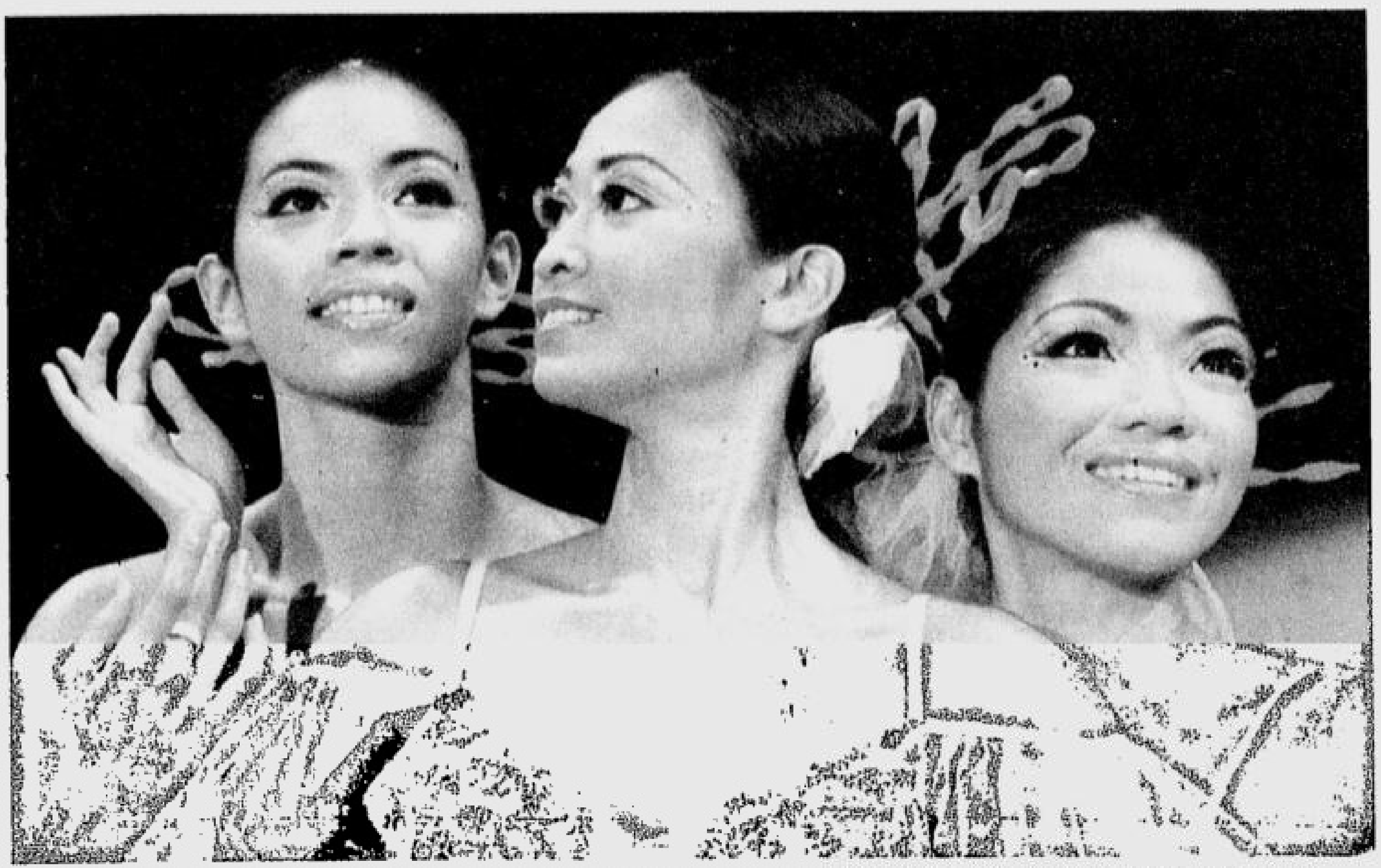
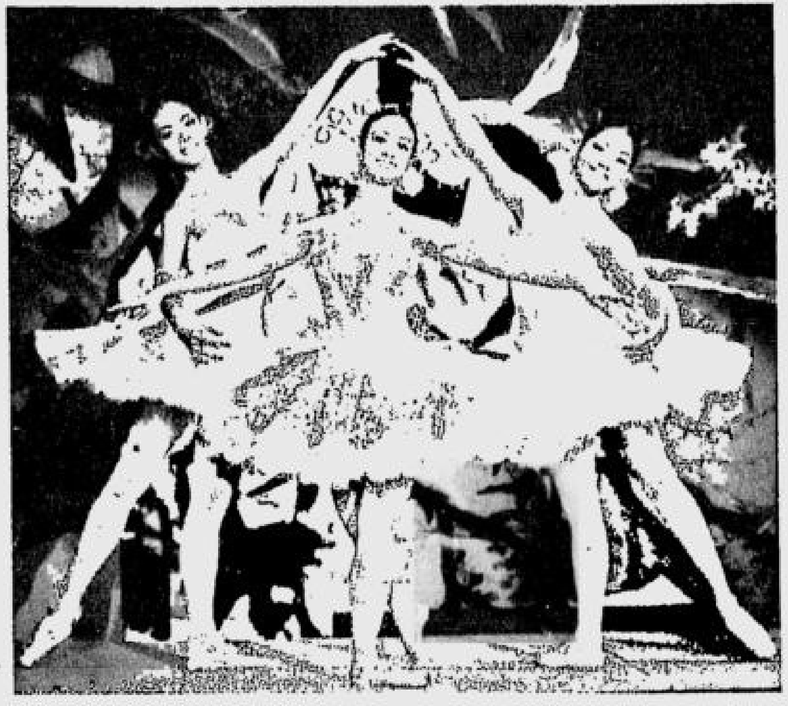


**THEATRICAL.** Elline, Pam and Sandra as the quintessential Snow Girls. The eyes are colored in electric blue, green and pink and enhanced with Old Gold pigments. The eye socket is made more prominent and the eyes are topped with falsies. The cheeks are exaggerated.



**SNOWFLAKES** and the Sugarplum Fairy

# Snow time!

### Look naughty and nice, for once

By Marie Calica
*Contributor*
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

HAIR AND MAKEUP: CARESSA HANOOM, BONNIE BOON AND MIKEE RAYMUNDO
CLOTHES AND SHOES: RUSTAN'S
LOCATION: STAR THEATER
SPECIAL THANKS TO: LISA MACUJA-ELIZALDE AND RINA VELOSO
PAGE DESIGN : LYNETT VILLARIBA

**THE CHRISTMAS season has officially started. Shopping malls have been playing holiday songs as early as September. Streetlamps sport bright ribbons or lanterns. Christmas trees and *belen* sets have come out of closets in many Filipino homes.**

Christmas, MAC style is different. A world leader in professional makeup, MAC has a color collection for the holidays that blends sexy, innocent and all-out fun.

Think seductive and glitzy—Vegas show girls strutting their stuff in feathered headpieces and skin-baring outfits. Now let these same girls wear ice skates run out to the snow. You get the picture.

That's what MAC's Snow Girl is all about.

## Be adventurous

Line the eyes with Eye Kohl in either Teddy (Pearled Chocolate Brown) or Phone Number (Smudgy Charcoal). Blend with a sponge tip applicator for a smoky feel. Then brighten up those peepers with Romp (Chocolate laced with gold) or Goldmine (Glamrock yellowed gold). Apply some of this at the outer corner of the eye and blend inwards. Just so you don't overdo this part, start with small amounts then increase "to taste."

Curl your lashes and add a layer or two of Coal Black Pro mascara. Too tame? Then be adventurous and smother the lashes in Prim Rosy (Dancing Diva Pink burnished with Blue) Pro Lash Colour.

Line your kisser now with Cranberry Lip, then top off with Melting Kiss lipstick. Want more shine? Slick on Snowgirl glitter lipglass for a sexy finish. Highlight your temples, browbones and nose bridge with Mischievous—a metallic orange and gold lacquer. Voila... you're a Snow Girl!

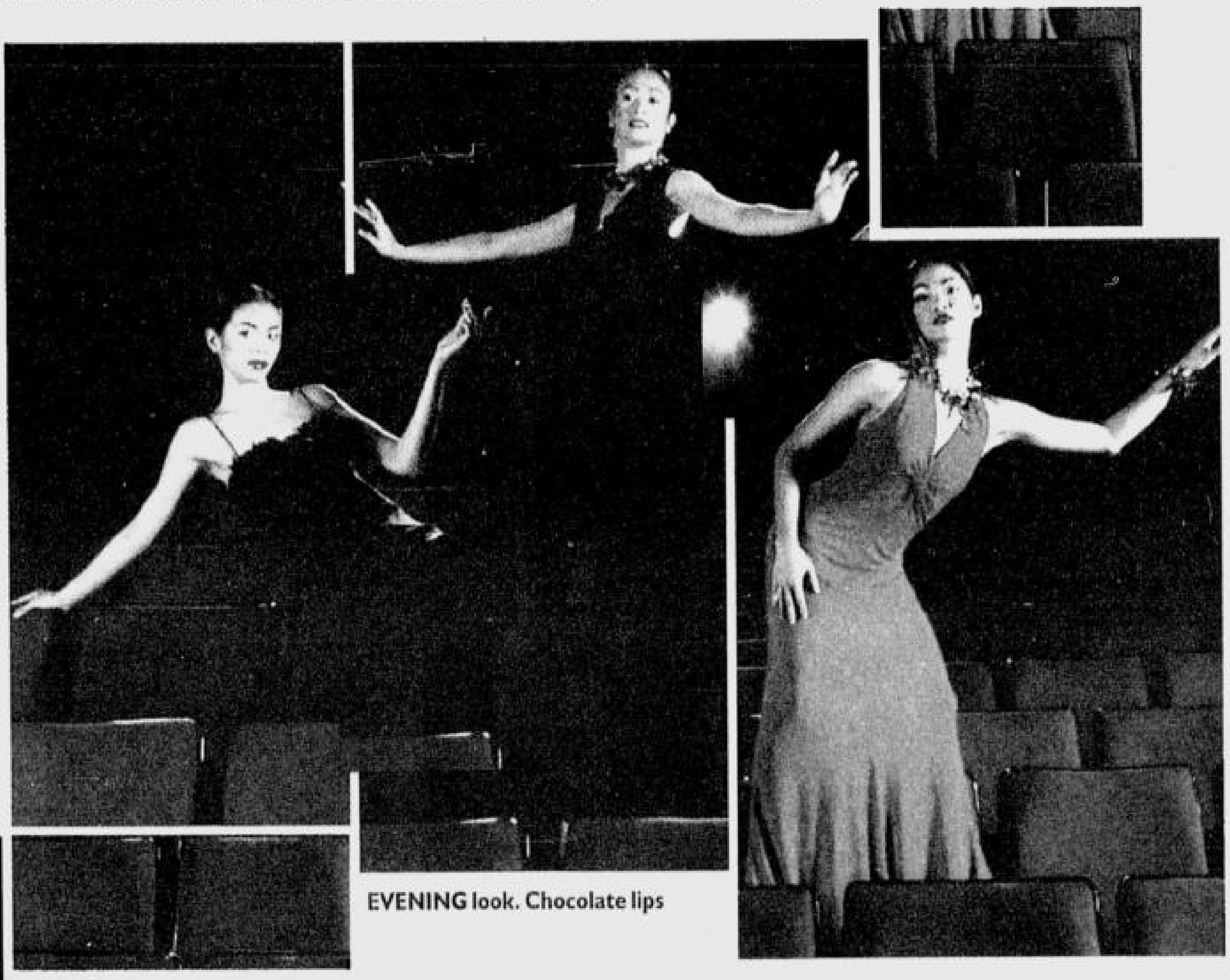
## Limited edition

This limited-edition line comes in festive colors like candy cane pinks, high-karat golds and frosted whites—delicious-looking shades all glossed and glazed, topped with glitter that represents snowflakes (Christmas indeed!). "Snow Girl is all about dolling up to look fresh, happy, innocent, and sexy all at once," says Bo Ramas-Ros, MAC merchandise manager.

What's more, the individual makeup pieces (in Manila this month) come in gift boxes printed with special illustrations of sexy Vegas-type showgirls frolicking in good old-fashioned Christmas settings. Prices range from less than P500 to a little over P1,000, making MAC great for gifts. Start with yourself.

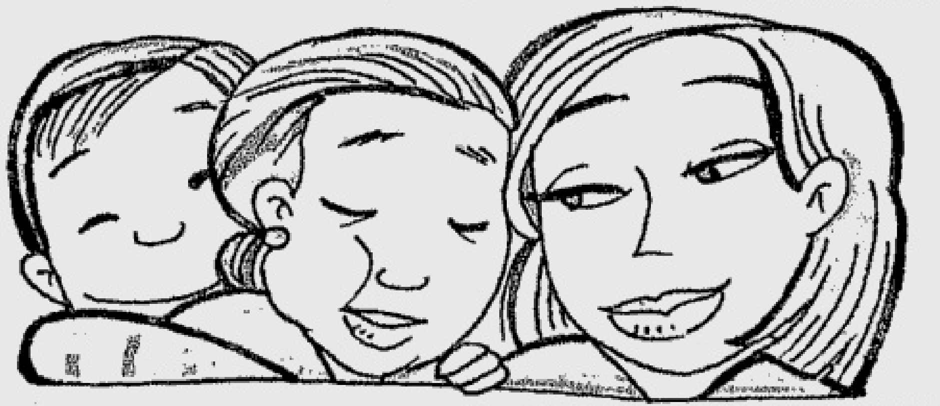
With or without Santa's sanction, consider how you'll look wearing Snow Girl: naughty *and* nice.

**DAYTIME.** Sandra Lynn Huang, Elline Damian and Pamela Asprer sport Snow Girl's casual look. MAC's new makeup contains pearl pigments that create a three-dimensional effect under the lights. Contrasts come naturally. For the sheer look, use Studio Tech foundation and Strobe Cream for the shine. Lips are soft but with high shine. The blush is imperceptible.



**EVENING** look. Chocolate lips

**GOING** easy with Vivienne Tam



ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

# Caring for the aged in a society that ignores them

By Dr. Sarah Eaggar

AS night follows day, so old age brings change and loss, dependency, isolation, loneliness and depression. But it can also be a time of great spiritual growth and awareness and, for some, a celebration of wisdom born of experience.

People of all ages share basic human needs—love, faith, hope, peace and worship. Older people are no different. Certainly these needs can take on a particular poignancy in that time of their life.

It is normal to view old age with some apprehension. The depletions of aging multiply with the loss of role, bereavement and domicile. Undoubtedly these have an impact on personhood in ways that we can but rarely imagine when we are younger. Self-image and identity slowly drain away until, ultimately, there's death.

Our society tends to be ageist, and thus marginalizes older people, making them feel that they are a burden. In Western culture there is such an emphasis on achievement, that there isn't an appreciation of the wisdom of old age as an essential and significant ingredient of society. It would appear that in Eastern societies it is more customary to respect and honor one's elders.

Yet as author Albert Jewel reminds us in his book "Spirituality and Aging": "This is a time when they have a real need for the affirmation of their continuing value as unique and socially connected human beings, and their wisdom as a resource for others."

Facing death also shapes the spirituality of many older people. The unfinished business of human relationships and the need to be reconciled with significant others become a high priority: their deepest desire is to die at peace. To try and heal painful memories, and perhaps even a basic need to be at one with God as death approaches is a legitimate focus. Towards the end of life, there is the search for integration (a sense of wholeness in a spiritual way) to pull life together and make sense of it as a whole.

In "The Life Cycle Completed," E.H. Erickson describes the psychosocial development at one stage—integrity versus despair. Integrity in old age is the capacity to assimilate the value of one's full life experience—to be and to continue to be, through having been—to hold on to the worthwhile aspects of one's life. These include conscious and unconscious memories of having been valued and loved. It implies being free enough of persecutory guilt as a result of having been able to love.

## Love as a value

Healthcare professionals, myself included, may feel uncomfortable with the idea of love. It may be easier for us to describe love "in actions." That is, in other words, the effect of love in the kind of work we do—care, compassion, consideration, kindness, mercy, empathy and sympathy.

In her book, "The Universal Heart," Stephanie Dowrick writes, "A life worth living is a life of love. And anything worth discovering about love will deepen not just one, but every one of our relationships. Just as crucially though, love joins us to the deepest part of ourselves, It allows us to know that our life has legitimacy, that far from our own inner world, we can reach out to give willingly to other people and receive what they can give us."

In our daily practice we reveal aspects of love in myriad ways. As we are aware, it is often the kind word, a touch or loving look, that has the most significance for the patient.

As Brian Martindale describes, we have an "everlasting connection" with those who may have nothing. At times, doctors and caregivers may be the only human connection that their elderly patients have—they have become the patients' family, their world, and even their reason to live.

I recall a patient who was finding it difficult to come to terms with his loss of skills as a builder. I related to him the Taoist idea about increasing value of quiet and reflection in old age. I told him that about the "tests" of old age, among them sitting beside running water and contemplating. Subsequently, he realized how much he enjoyed spending time just sitting by his fishpond.

## How we learn

In the book "Spirituality and Aging," another author says we so often hear old people say, "Why don't I die—I don't want to be a burden to others." He feels we should never allow this to go unanswered, as it signifies hopelessness.

He tells old people: "You are never a burden if people love you. Those who do have the joy and privilege of looking with tenderness, concern and intelligence at someone they love. But in return you must be able to receive graciously and make it as easy as possible for them to love you. If you receive with a cramped heart, you are saying,"I would prefer to receive nothing from you, but I am a victim."

We all depend on one another's love and must learn at all ages how to receive it with gratitude and grace.

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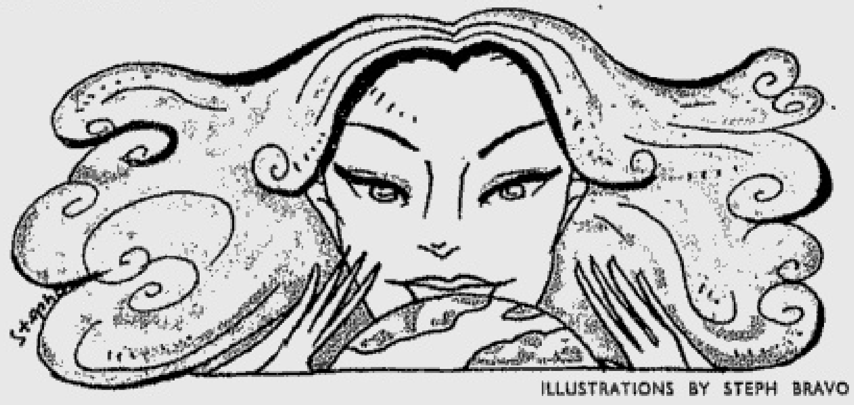
### VENUS RETROGRADE IN SCORPIO

# Cosmic influence on world affairs

By Georgina C Solina
*Contributor*



ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

CALL it a sign of the times.

A recent front-page photograph showed Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi shedding his strong-man image as he beams amidst contestants of Miss Net World, the first international beauty contest that his country is hosting. The pageant's battlecry is, "Beauty will save the world." Indeed, it is symbolic of the fact that it is Venus, the cosmic principle that rules love, beauty, harmony, money, and even the Arabs and Muslims, that will make the world rethink its values.

Last Oct 10, 2002, Venus set station at Scorpio, launching a 40-day retrograde that occurs only once every 19 months. After the Sun and Moon, Venus is the brightest object in our solar system. Its dramatic cycle of waxing and waning, morning star and evening star, was considered by astrologers from ancient Babylon all the way to the Aztec and Mayan cultures in America, as a celestial indicator of mundane events. The fact that the Venus retrograde (backward movement) station hit so close to the World Axis makes it particularly significant to world affairs.

Let's look at what happened when Venus was stationed near Scorpio in the autumn of 1994. At that time, the Taliban movement in Afghanistan was created among the former Mujahideen with the support of Pakistan. They won Kandahar as their first territory. In November 1994, while Venus was still in retrograde, the Republicans in the United States government stunningly took control of both houses of Congress. George W. Bush entered the political scene by becoming Texas governor. The current Venus retrograde station which starts Oct. 31, 2002, conjoining the Sun, is considered a resurrection after a period of darkness, and the beginning of a new cycle in man's evolution.

When a planet goes retrograde, it is said to slow down activities of human beings in order to make them review the meaning of past events, and enable them to go inward, into the deep recesses of their being, a psychological process called "soul-searching."

Venus is now the Morning Star, getting brighter and brighter as it travels further and further from the Sun. Its message to the world is unconditional love, with forgiveness and humility as foundation.

## Scorpio affected

This is a very difficult position, however, because this planet is posited in Scorpio, a zodiac sign that gives a sharp and incisive intellect vehement feelings and a body capable of extraordinary endurance.

The transit is made more difficult by the Scorpio drive and intensity that keep pushing the individual past his own contentment. Humans will go through a period of feeling unfulfilled, and seek gratification.

Scorpio persons are either unevolved or evolved. When the unevolved or lower type of Scorpio is antagonized, he/she sulks and broods, waiting in silence for the opportunity to strike. Then he lashes out so venomously that his/her sting paralyzes the object of his wrath.

By contrast, when the evolved Scorpio turns his powers to his greatest good, no greater devotion to principle or capacity for sacrifice can be found. He/she is compassionate without being squeamish and will uncomplainingly take on jobs too tough for others to handle. They make heroes or villains—or both at once.

Most important, Scorpio is the sign of regeneration or resurrection as symbolized by the phoenix, which rises from its ashes. Mankind may be seen as entering the kingdom of light by making a passage through a dark valley.

## Grace

Venus vibrations bring grace. People are now being led to realize that the ideal they are looking for is not to be found in another person, place or situation but in the deepest recesses of their own being.

Just take a look at the lifestyle publications and glossy magazines that glorify youth and physical beauty. Their definition of pulchritude is limited to clothes and popularity, which are of no consequence to society. Readers are slowly growing weary of superficial values and gloss. They need stories that will stimulate their minds and challenge long-held beliefs that are no longer valid today. Yet these publications are so smug. They don't think inner beauty will sell, or provide visual appeal to the readers. Time will come when our perception of beauty will not be limited to the conventional ideals but will be based on purity and virtue. Many will feel discontent in relationships that are based on sexual attraction.

Those in power will also feel the sham of nations' struggle for arms The truth is that in the past, such persons and such world leaders went through experiences that caused them to dislike themselves as individuals, 'or as leaders on unconscious levels.

An American psychologist suggested that the Sept. 11 attacks could be traced back to one man who was denied his father's love in childhood, using a rather severe method to get his father's attention. Simplistic, but likely to carry some veracity.

## Unconditional

This transit is making us realize that love is a natural quality of the self. Now is the time to emerge that quality and express it.

To learn to forgive is important for mankind now, with this Venus position in the heavens. But all of us should understand that forgiveness is not possible without forgetting. We should not repeat whatever unpleasant thing has happened. It will only create a barrier to love.

Ego makes us sensitive, or easily upset. We need to look into our hearts and build the flame of love.

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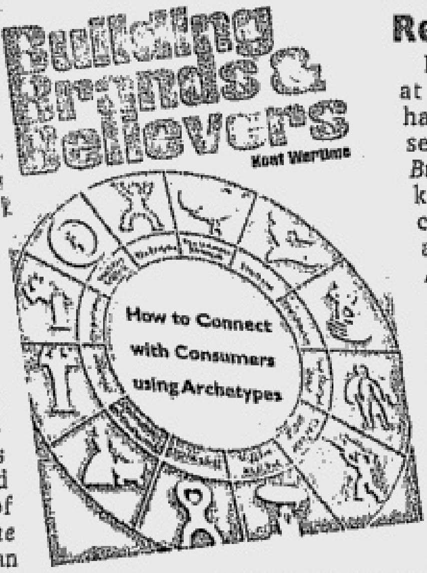
# Brands and believers

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
*Contributor*

**Building Brands & Believers**
**By Kent Wertime**
**John Wiley & Sons (Asia) Pte Ltd, 2002**

I LIKE perfumes that have light citrus undertones; my friend likes flowery scents. I swear by a certain brand of shampoo; my sister swears by another.

Everyday, we make subconscious connections to products that we choose to consume on a regular basis. The book "Building Brands and Believers" by Kent Wertime, a veteran of the international advertising and communications industry, explains why we gravitate the way we do to certain brands.


Building Brands & Believers
Kent Wertime
How to Connect with Consumers using Archetypes

Wertime says the source code that consumers relate to are archetypes: mythic profiles like The Siren, The Hero, The Wise Old Man, are just a few of these. Often they are guideposts for what people think they aspire to be. For example, the brand *Rolex* has a long-running campaign that highlights various adventurers, explorers and sports victors—symbols of strength—that wear *the* watch. While it is obviously an excellent watch in terms of function, *Rolex* has cultivated intrinsic brand value as a symbol of power by associating itself with people who embody the "Ultimate Strength" archetype.

## Depicting lifestyles

A product is something tangible, with form and function. A brand is something intangible that exists largely in consumers' minds. While a product has to deliver by being good, in the end it is the brand that people relate to. And building a relationship with a brand fosters loyalty. A friend of mine buys all his clothes from *Nautica*, while another uses only cosmetics from *The Body Shop*. This kind of brand loyalty is the ultimate goal of every product out in the market today.

Brands try to depict lifestyles. *Ralph Lauren* goes for the outdoor, affluent-yet-relaxed types. *Calvin Klein* opts for the minimalist, understated almost Zen-like modern approach. *Versace* is all about excess, glamour, and decadence.

Sometimes all it takes is a celebrity. Here in the Philippines, Sharon Cuneta and Aga Mulach are the top endorsers. They have hawked nearly everything from tuna to milk. Maybe their squeaky-clean images appeal to Filipinos. Maybe they look approachable and everyone feels familiar with them. Whatever it is, they connect.

On a global scale, Michael Jordan single-handedly propelled Nike to the forefront of sports apparel. His image was so powerful, they even came up with a shoe bearing his name. Indirectly, people who wore that shoe magically "imbibed" all that was Jordan. According to Wertime. the feelings and aspirations that consumers associate with a brand or public personality are critical to creating an emotional bond, which is the essence of what is called "brand equity."

## Reinvention

It is also interesting to look at how some "old" brands have re-invented themselves. The company *Burberry* for example, mostly known for excellent overcoats, was originally associated with a mature market. A new campaign changed all that, and now the ubiquitous *Burberry* checks are taking on younger consumers, appearing on everything from bags to dresses. The same goes for *Louis Vuitton, Gucci,* and *Christian Dior,* which are enjoying second lives, resurrected as hipper, younger brands. Of course reinvention does not always work. The whole *New Coke* debacle comes to mind as one major endeavor that flopped.

The author also refers to mnemonics as a way to imbed certain products into people's subconscious. Mr. Clean, KFC Colonel, and Ronald McDonald are not simple mascots. They are cognitive markers that almost instantly jog people's memories and create mental pathways back to the products they represent. Another great example is the Marlboro Man.

Advertising as a concept has changed with the birth of this mediapropelled age of information. This new generation is technology-indoctrinated and the variety of channels available, with which to communicate knowledge, is mind-boggling. Via mobile phones, pagers, the Internet, not to mention traditional routes like television and radio—we are bombarded with images everyday on both a conscious and subconscious level. These images are virtually major currency. People look to symbols as points of reference, and as we make connections with certain brands, so do we weed out others. To quote the author, "Although people are blind to the influences of the subconscious, it plays an important role in our daily decisions."

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Rustan's Harrison Plaza • CEBU CITY Rustan's Ayala Center

NECKLACE and bracelet made of antique coral branches with black obsidian and quartz

LARIAT/belt of white pearl turquoise with a sculptured cross

# Profitable passions

By Marge C. Enriquez

CAN passion be profitable?

Two accidental designers-cum-entrepreneurs are finding out that creativity is its own reward. Wynn Wynn Ong and Raul Francisco were corporate denizens. Although their jobs offered a lot of perks, they still felt something missing in their lives—space, for one. Quitting their day jobs, they discovered that they had inborn talents for design.

Today, not much later, they've got people talking about their creations.

## Enter the dragon

Imitation is at once a form of flattery and cause for alarm.

Ong, a jewelry designer, recalls that a magazine stylist came up to her one day, complimented her on her arty pieces, and said she owned one such piece, a necklace. Ong asked if the girl had purchased the necklace from Firma or Wish, the only two stores that officially carried the designer's work. The stylist said no, she got it elsewhere. Ong was shocked.

People would visit Wish or Firma pretending to shop, but really just to scrutinize, and later copy, Ong's jewelry.

Ong was driven to upgrade her work and put her personal stamp, an original *naga*—the mythical dragon—clasp to guarantee authenticity. Her jewelry collection, now called Naga (accent on the last syllable) will be launched on Nov. 14 at Firma, Greenbelt 3.

A foreign buyer had suggested the distinguishing touch. The *naga* clasp is custom-made for Ong. "It is carved and molded, and it comes with a metal dye," she explains. "The process is long, and therefore expensive."

In Buddhism, the *naga* is a symbol of power. Ong adds that she and her husband were both born on a Saturday, a day ruled by the mythical serpent, according to the Buddhist tradition.

Naga jewelry is harder to imitate than Ong's earlier creations, because the stones she now uses are harder to source. For instance, imitators may use Chinese corals, which are dyed. Ong has purchased Mediterránean corals from antique stores in Venice and Florence, and gathered tourmalines from Africa and Sri Lanka.

Ong's pieces are bold and sculptural. She has combined opaque and translucent semiprecious stones from South America, Asia and the Middle East with wood, Swarovski crystals, and unusually shaped pearls. A necklace of Sri Lankan garnet goes with animal horn. A multiple-strand necklace made from sandstone complements Jasper beads and raw Iranian turquoise. Another necklace made of speckled agate is highlighted by pearls and taupe mother-of-pearl squares.

Crosses are Ong's bestsellers, especially cross necklaces made of turquoise. A cross lariat could double as a belt when worn over a shift or loose shirt, or as a necklace.

Ong finds jewelry designing more than satisfying; she says it has balanced her life. Only a few years ago, she was juggling schedules as a mother and corporate executive. It was rewarding in a way, she says, but not nearly fulfilling. Working on jewelry, on the other hand, Ong says she finds a sense of calm as she crafts each strand, intuitively.

"We work out our emotions through our art," she says. Women who wear her work are bound to feel the happy vibes and exude the same.

## Bags in black

Entrepreneur Raul Francisco is a perennial optimist. He recalls that when he folded up his makeup store Central Maquillage and went into introspection, the crisis turned out to be an opportunity. Like the ugly duckling that turned into a swan after the winter of hibernation, Francisco discovered that designing bags was his calling. Better still, it was related to his previous career in terms of image-building and marketing.

First, he launched Twist for fashion bags. Then he diversified into Voyage, which now includes utilitarian and travel bags in faux leather and other synthetic materials. Carbon is his newest baby. Aside from being more fashion-forward and offering more masculine bags, Carbon reflects the maturation of Francisco's designs.

The window display in Carbon's store in Greenbelt 3 harks the message that black is back. Costumers can enjoy bags in that single color but in various finishes, ranging from pure leather to pebble grain, nylon and heavy gauge canvas.

Definitely, the bags are made for urban living. For a luxurious look, there are hobos in soft butter leather. The vertical messenger bags are made for train travelers, so that they don't hit other passengers with their luggage. The nylon utility duffel with suede trim and shoulder strap has an expandable bottom. Shoppers will find the shopping bag handy, with toggle lock drawstring to protect the goods inside. Cosmetic bags have security locks so the makeup doesn't spill. The argyle-patterned bags with extended handles are popular among fashion writers.

Carbon features radical components such as rubber moldings, industrial straps, and generous compartments to store mobiles, PDAs, makeup kits, etc. On Nov. 15, the store will offer slouches, large-framed bags, edgy portfolios with generous pockets and shiny metal clasps, triple-zip bags, and belt-buckle bags.

"It's all about attitude," Francisco declares.

He brandishes a black calfskin envelope, edged with white topstitches, and accessorized with two flap pockets with industrial locks. Male customers wondered if the topstitching wasn't a little too "sissy."

"Look at me," the designer shot back. "Do I look feminine?" He got a lot of orders in that style.

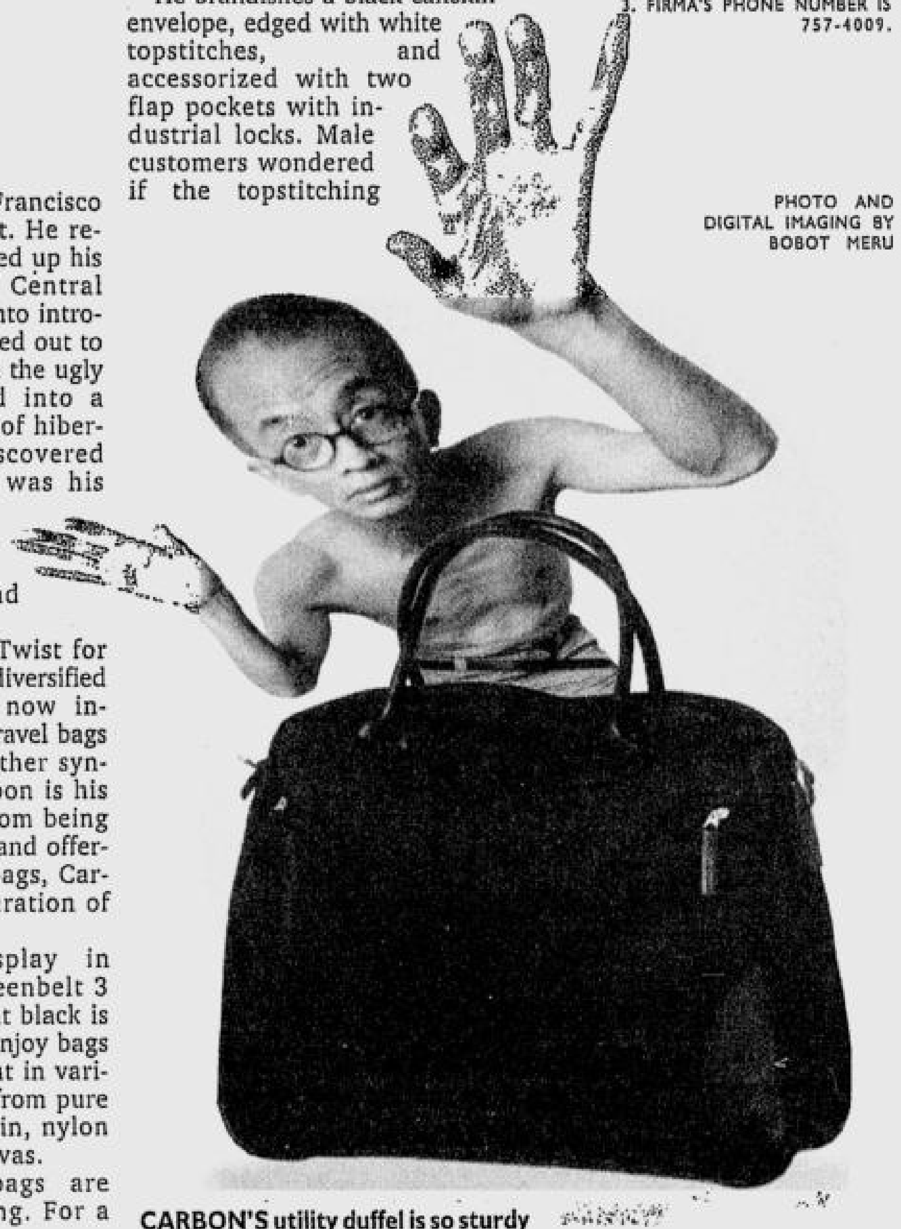
Francisco urges Filipinos to leave behind conventional bents and be more adventurous in accessorizing. "For heaven's sake," he says, "it's only fashion. Live a little!"

Carbon is designed for the customer with a multi-faceted personality. A doctor walked to the store and purchased a hip backpack. Physician by day, he could be a cool dude by night. Because of Carbon's individualistic designs and affordable pricing, Francisco isn't fazed by competition.

He feels he's got a higher purpose than just to eke out a living. "You've got to give something back," he says. "Sustainability happens when we help, instead of destroy, one another."

FIRMA AND CARBON ARE LOCATED AT GREENBELT 3. FIRMA'S PHONE NUMBER IS 757-4009.

PHOTO AND DIGITAL IMAGING BY BOBOT MERU


CARBON'S utility duffel is so sturdy that you can put anything in it.

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# Highlights, lowlights

Photos by Bobot Meru
Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

**MOST Filipinas wait till the first signs of gray to try highlights or hair color. Many young women still fear that these would turn their crowning glory into a clumsy rainbow.**

In fact, highlights and hair color enhance facial features. Basement's senior hairdresser Stefan Wylcinzki convinced young Claudine Trillo, a talent in "Magandang Umaga Bayan" and E! Philippines to give hair coloring a try, for an instance face "lift."

Stefan applied highlights and lowlights in six shades on Claudine's brown hair. The three lighter shades reflected the light, while the darker ones added depth and softness. There were no harsh patches of loud color, just dramatic locks.

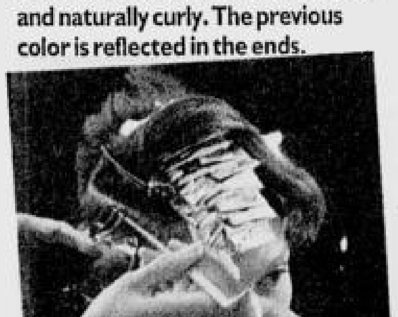
For faster coloring time and lasting results, the Basement at Rockwell Power Plant uses The Color Applicator, a formula that speeds up the process, makes the hair shiny, and eliminates fading.

Here's a valuable tip: a good colorist should understand the chemical properties of the color formula and know how shades complement skin tone. Stefan says a common mistake among salons is using black as base color and adding another shade on top. The result is a mess.

Stefan warns that do-it-yourself hair-coloring packs in supermarkets are a big risk. "All coloring products are from Europe and made for Western hair, which is different in texture from Asian hair. The latter is four times thicker and has more pigments. Color doesn't come out the way it's supposed to. Light brown turns to medium brown with Filipina hair."

CREDITS:
MAKEUP: FLOR RIVERA
JEWELRY: BVLGARI

BEFORE. Claudine Trillo's hair is dry and naturally curly. The previous color is reflected in the ends.


HIGHLIGHTING by the foil method is more accurate. The hairdresser weaves the hair and wraps the color in a foil.

FOR natural contrast, Stefan alternated the hair coloring with lighter, medium and darker shades.

AFTER. There's highlight without a drastic change. The lighter shades shine under the reflection [illegible]ts.

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# 18 countries in Manila dance party

By Becky Garcia
*Contributor*

SATURDAY, Nov. 9, is a red-letter day for all dancesport enthusiasts.

The Philippines is lucky to have been chosen as the host of the Asia-Pacific Dance Sport Championship. Filipinos will have the chance to witness this spectacle participated in by 18 countries.

Dancesport champions from the region will converge in Manila to vie for the titles of Amateur Latin and Standard Champions, Youth Latin and Standard Champions, and Junior Latin and Standard Champions.

**President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**, who is a good dancer, has confirmed her attendance during the opening ceremonies to be held at the Philsports Multi-Purpose Arena. She has also proclaimed Nov. 4 to 10, 2002 as National Dancesport Week. A week-long series of activities such as mall shows, workshops, competitions and ballroom club tours have been lined up to highlight the championship event.

There will be 10 foreign adjudicators, led by Asian Dancesport Foundation president **Keiji Ukai** from Japan. The others are: **Wolfgang Opitz** from Germany; **Gheorghe Raducan**, founder of the Romanian Dance Sport Federation; **Royce Yeh** from Taipei; **Sittichai Preyadara** from Thailand; **Gloria Alcala** and **Josefina Saliva** from the Philippines; **Tamiko Ito** from Japan; **Scott Todd** from Hong Kong; and **Igor Jegersky** from Slovakia. Philippine Sports Commissioner **Eric Buhain** chairs the executive committee.

The participating countries are China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Thailand, Kazakhastan, Macau, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Singapore, Australia, Sri Lanka, the United States, Canada, and the Philippines.

I would like to thank the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, through the generosity of chair **Livia Singson de Leon**, for being one of the major supporters aside from the PSC.

## Baile Español

Fundacion Centro Flamenco, in cooperation with Equitable-PCI Bank, recently presented "Hoy Y Ayer (Today and Yesterday)," a Spanish dance festival.

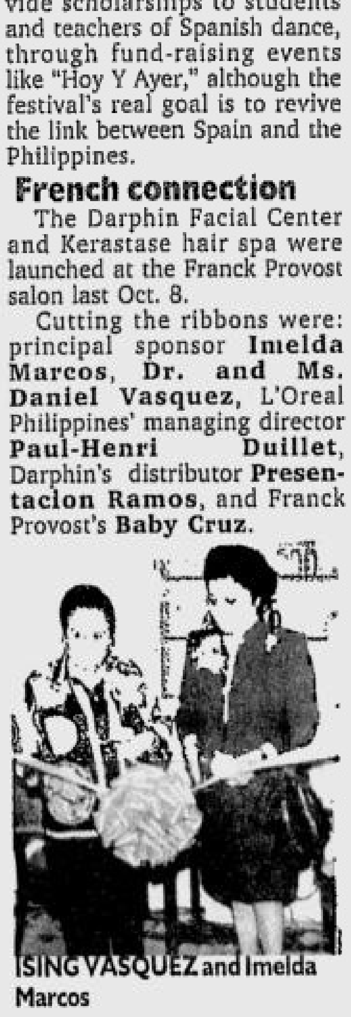
Flamenco *maestra* Emma Estrada is the founding president of this group. The Hispanista enthusiasts include: **Cecile de Joya**, **Gina Jane Grey**, **Baby Antonio**, **Teresita Liboro**, **Baby Manlapit**, **Audrey General**, **Angie Cadungong**, **Silvia Jacinto**, **Bea Chan**, **Tats Manahan**, and **Tami Monsod**.

The Fundacion aims to provide scholarships to students and teachers of Spanish dance, through fund-raising events like "Hoy Y Ayer," although the festival's real goal is to revive the link between Spain and the Philippines.

## French connection

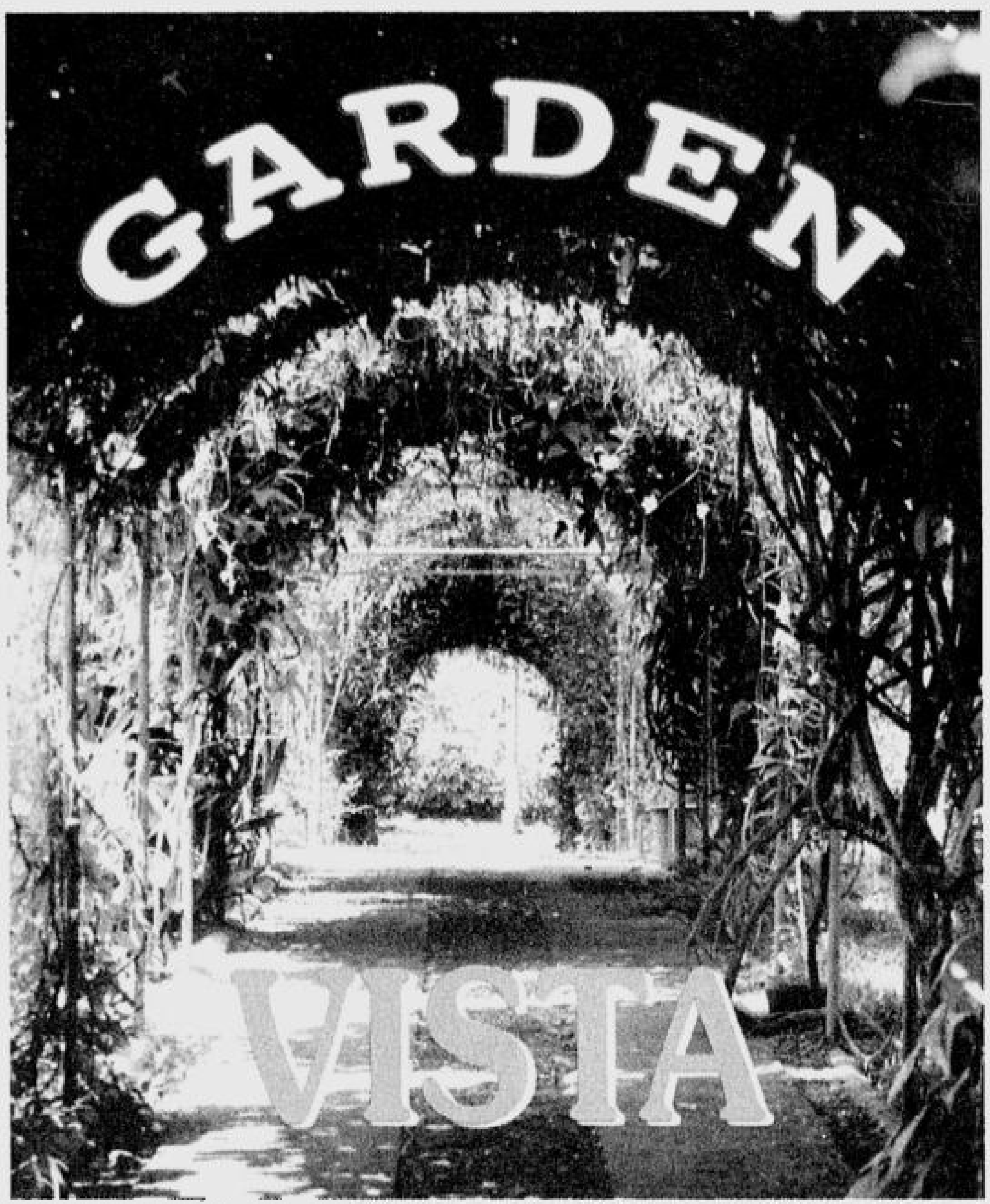
The Darphin Facial Center and Kerastase hair spa were launched at the Franck Provost salon last Oct. 8.

Cutting the ribbons were: principal sponsor **Imelda Marcos**, **Dr. and Ms. Daniel Vasquez**, L'Oreal Philippines' managing director **Paul-Henri Duillet**, Darphin's distributor **Presentacion Ramos**, and Franck Provost's **Baby Cruz**.


ISING VASQUEZ and Imelda Marcos

# GARDEN VISTA

## Amihan Botanical Gardens in Lipa City, Batangas is for both serious enthusiasts and accidental tourists



EXOTIC vines found no where else, the Beaumontia grandiflora, commonly known as the Chilean easter lily.

**By Adrian V. Lizares**
**Photos by Chito Vecina**

THE ADVANTAGES of having a garden situated on higher ground are plenty. Plants are remarkably healthier, to start with. They produce livelier leaves and larger, if not exactly more numerous, flowers. Colors, too, are more vivid, making one occasionally wonder whether the plant actually belongs to another species.

In the case of Amihan Botanical Gardens, it also helps that it is located in Lipa City, Batangas, far removed from the pollution of Metro Manila. Lamberto Ocampo and his gracious wife Belen, Amihan "residents-in-charge," have been spending more days at the garden than in their Makati residence.

Garden curator is Nonie Dolera, bona fide authority on Philippine endemic plant species, upon whose invitation Elan came visiting. Lunch was prepared by the famous sculptor Claude Tayag, just a little less known as an expert cook, who prepared a feast of Mequeni dishes including quail *adobo*, *balo-balo* (fermented rice with shrimp), and *bulalo*.

In the intense light and heat of noon, Nonie brought us on a tour of the botanical garden, accompanied by Claude and fellow artist Ofie Gelvezon-Tequi. The huge expanse seemed to be a physical challenge, but to my amazement, the walk was effortless, and we did not burn in the least.

The group's enthusiasm rose with succeeding discourses on the various plant species. Nonie and Ofie, who is a collector of epiphytes, conducted a discussion of Philipine orchids in a language I did not recognize.

I concluded that orchid talk was only for fanatics. All I could pick up was the actual sight of their intense beauty. Oh, I did catch the part where the two connoisseurs said countryside orchids produced more handsome blooms than their cousins in the city.

By the way, some of the specimens we found in Amihan were local varieties picked up from treks up Mayon Volcano. Truly, I thought, orchid collecting had taken on an "extreme" appeal.

We also discussed edibles, as Nonie was currently involved in the publication a book on the subject. Claude, the confessed foodie, was keen to notice potentials, and quick to taste exotic fruit. It appeared we were not only touring the garden, we were eating directly from it!

One of the aims of the owners, we were told, was to educate the viewers, and they were successful with our group. We did learn a few new things, for instance: The highly prized ornamental, Medenilla Magnifica, is edible. The leaves and berries are commonly used by highlanders as condiments. The sap from the flowers of Barringtonia Asiatica is used by fishermen to sedate their prey!

### Butterfly sanctuary

The Amihan Botanical Gardens is a well-thought out spread. Nine hectares of land include the now-famous Butterfly Sanctuary, an impressive setting of cacti and succulents, and an area filled with amazing Philippine vine species including the Strongylodon Macrobotrys, otherwise known as the Jade Vine.

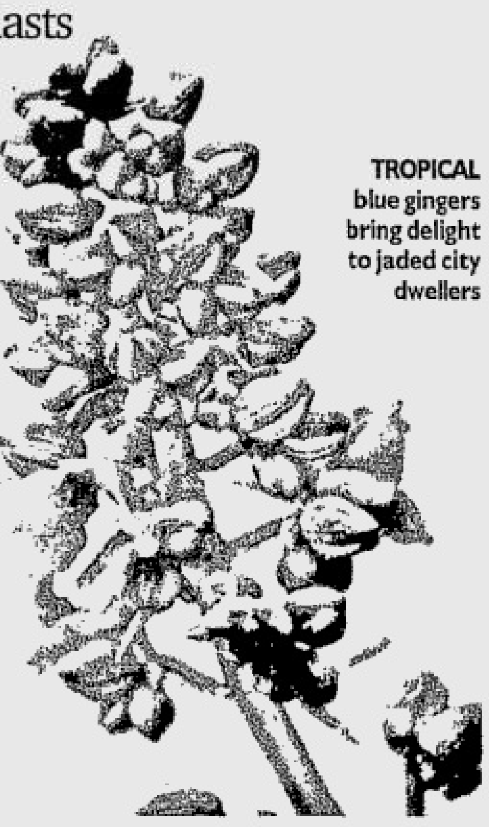
There is also a Filipino-theme garden with endemic varieties, the eye-catcher among which is the dwarf coconut, a species found only in Bohol and Marinduque Islands.

Students comprise most of Amihan's visitors, but interested smaller groups and individuals are "more than welcome." The owners recently acquired two *tuktuks* from Bangkok to ferry visitors around the garden.

The Amihan Botanical Gardens is located on Governor Leviste Road in Barangay Bulacnin, Lipa City. Tel. (043) 312-6607 or (02) 810-5614. Or email *lou@sarisari.com*.

*(E-mail the author at* campoman@yahoo.com*)*

ONE of the few existing xeriscape garens in the country. Catci and succulents abound.



TROPICAL blue gingers bring delight to jaded city dwellers

NONI Dolera (left) and Claude Tayag discuss the culinary potentials of the Medinilla magnifica, one of our country's top horticltural wonders!

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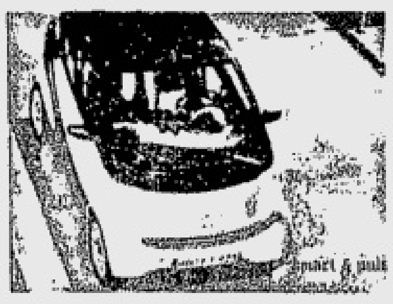
# 'NUIT BLANCHE'
# When in Paris, WALK

## The city slips into different characters by the hour

**By Bea P. Valdes**
*Contributor*

IT is two o' clock in the morning in Paris. Our gang of three is still rambling across the grand avenues, in search of a cab.

"*Nuit Blanche*," my friend shrugs. The words are both a justification and a warning. Paris' White Nights means that the bars and restaurants will be stretching their hours into the early morning. Translated into transport-related vernacular, this means, "No taxis."



Over my shoulder, I espy the Eiffel tower throbbing with Christmas fever and refusing to succumb to sleep. We begin walking towards the Hotel, passing grids of buildings. Behind each window, lights stream out onto the street.

Life goes on.

We hear music from a dying dinner party, then a couple hushing their whimpering baby back to sleep. Someone roars with laughter.

As we drift past the river, my friend stops and marvels at its stillness. He shakes his head and announces: "Perfect for water skiing."

### Different characters

The city slips into different characters by the hour. Early morning is when it is most friendly. Strolling towards Boulevard St. Germain, we slice into the belly of a market. One can spend hours trying to recognize strange berries. Pears, in endless variety, pop out of wooden baskets. Fresh figs occupy the front row stalls, interrupted only by the wayward strawberry.

Fascination grips the tourist; what is day-to-day for the French presents itself as a rare carnival of colors and smells to foreigners.

At midday, the city is arrogantly stunning, showing off its lavish, articulated frivolity. In the afternoon, Paris is the last place on earth to contemplate a life unfettered by possessions.

Earlier in the week, we had seen the city eclipsed in rain, slicked down against a granular atmosphere. It loses its scope, enclosing itself from café to café.

At night, when it seems most monumental, with the dark altering its mass and volume, Paris' architecture is still voluptuous, challenging one's aesthetic stamina.

Now it is three in the morning. We forgive it for being public transport-free.

We stop at a restaurant to ask for directions. *"Ile de la cité?"* the waiter asks, incredulous. *"Aux pieds?"* We nod. He begins to laugh hysterically.

Much earlier in the day, hailing a taxi was no problem. We jumped right in and told the driver to take us to the "*Mondial de l'Automobile*" exposition.

"You like cars?" the driver asked.

"Yes, yes," I answered, not wanting to volunteer that I did not know how to drive.

"Cars," he sighed, " I hate them. I prefer motorbikes. I drive cars only because I have to work."

With that, I launched into a description of the Philippine tricycle. Trying to explain how it is possible to strap on a passenger cart unto his preferred mode of transport, I realized Paris would not be quite the same if it were infested by a legion of tricycles.

### Latest models

At the automobile exhibition, the air was charged with the thrill of the new, the unorthodox, and the ridiculously expensive. Men milled around a Ferrari with reverence, hands clasped together as if in prayer. People eyed the Porsche Cayenne with suspicion. It's the company's first 4x4, in two versions, S and Turbo with a V8 motor. The turbo would set back the buyer by 103, 910 euros.

It was the male litany of love made manifest: Porsche, Masserati, Ferrari, Bugati, Lamborghini—which, for some bizarre reason they had slapped right across from a Toyota. Jaguar was adjacent to Aston Martin, Mercedes was butt against Ford. The mini stand had a deejay from MTV pumping out music. And gasoline, as it was displayed in their stands, came in a big yellow can that read, "Spinach."

On the cover of the shows' guide was the Smart Roadster.

Compact, lightweight, and with a motor by Mercedes, Smart cars herald new dynamism. They are the palm pilots of cars, complete with MP3 players.

### For dog lovers

What I wouldn't give to be in that car right now, I say to myself. We are still winding our way back to the hotel.

We reach Musée d'Orsay at quarter to four. There is a taxi stop with something like seventy-five people who look very annoyed.

"Give up!" my friend shouts at them. It is I who decide to give up. I sit on the stoop of a second-hand bookshop. I am one with the cobblestones. My toes are dead.

A couple walks past. The woman has removed her boots and is swaying in her socks.

"Not a good Idea." My friend snickers. She won't get very far without sinking in dog doo.

I ask my friend why, with their gift of a city, the Parisians look so sullen? Why do the locals stare angrily at the pavement when that walk around?

He sighs. "You tourists look around, marvel at the cheese shops, and patisseries. You look up and absorb the sky. We, who live in Paris, know better. We look at the ground to avoid stepping on the dog shit."

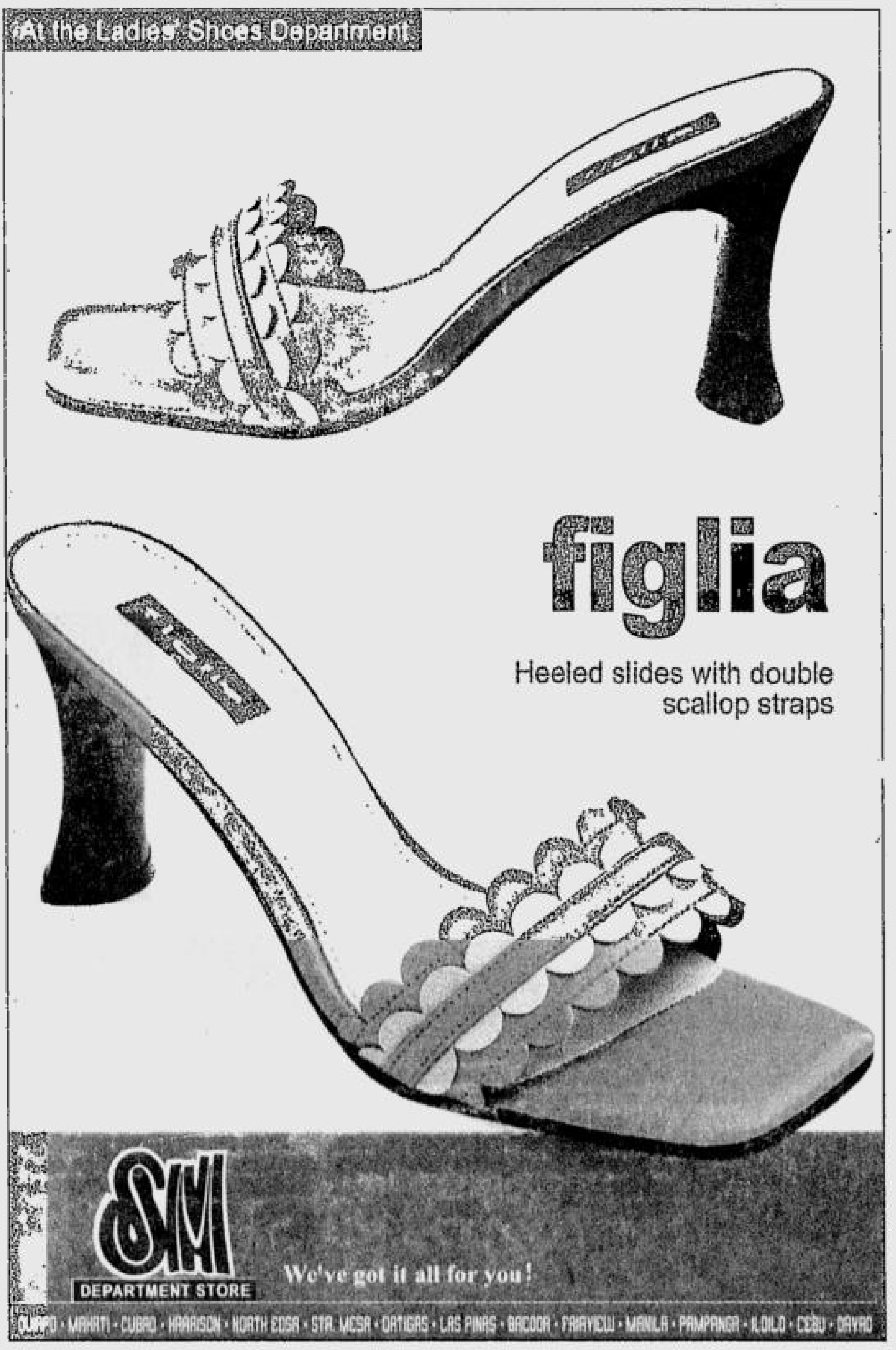
It's true. Paris is for lovers. Dog lovers. That certain swoon the city is known for, that could just be tourists skidding on the truest of inside jokes. It must be hell for the visually impaired. In fact, the government has, for ages, been appealing to dog owners to pick up after their beloved canines. At one point, authorities issued a poster featuring an older gentleman in his wheel chair. He was gazing at the biological smear on the palm of one hand, on his face an expression of irreversible defeat.

I gaze across the streets at this time, this magical four a.m. The minefield is glistening.

### Coming back

Finally, our hotel is in sight. This day, I walked a total of six hours, taken two taxi rides, breathed on a Ferrari and fell in love with a Smart roadster. And while strolling, I learned the dog doo doo dance.

If you want my advice as to how to take on Paris, I must say: Walk, and expect to stumble unto drama. Discover its night; imagine lives beyond the windows. Check out the glowing sky, but do watch out for the bombs below. And always return.



At the Ladies' Shoes Department

figlia

Heeled slides with double scallop straps

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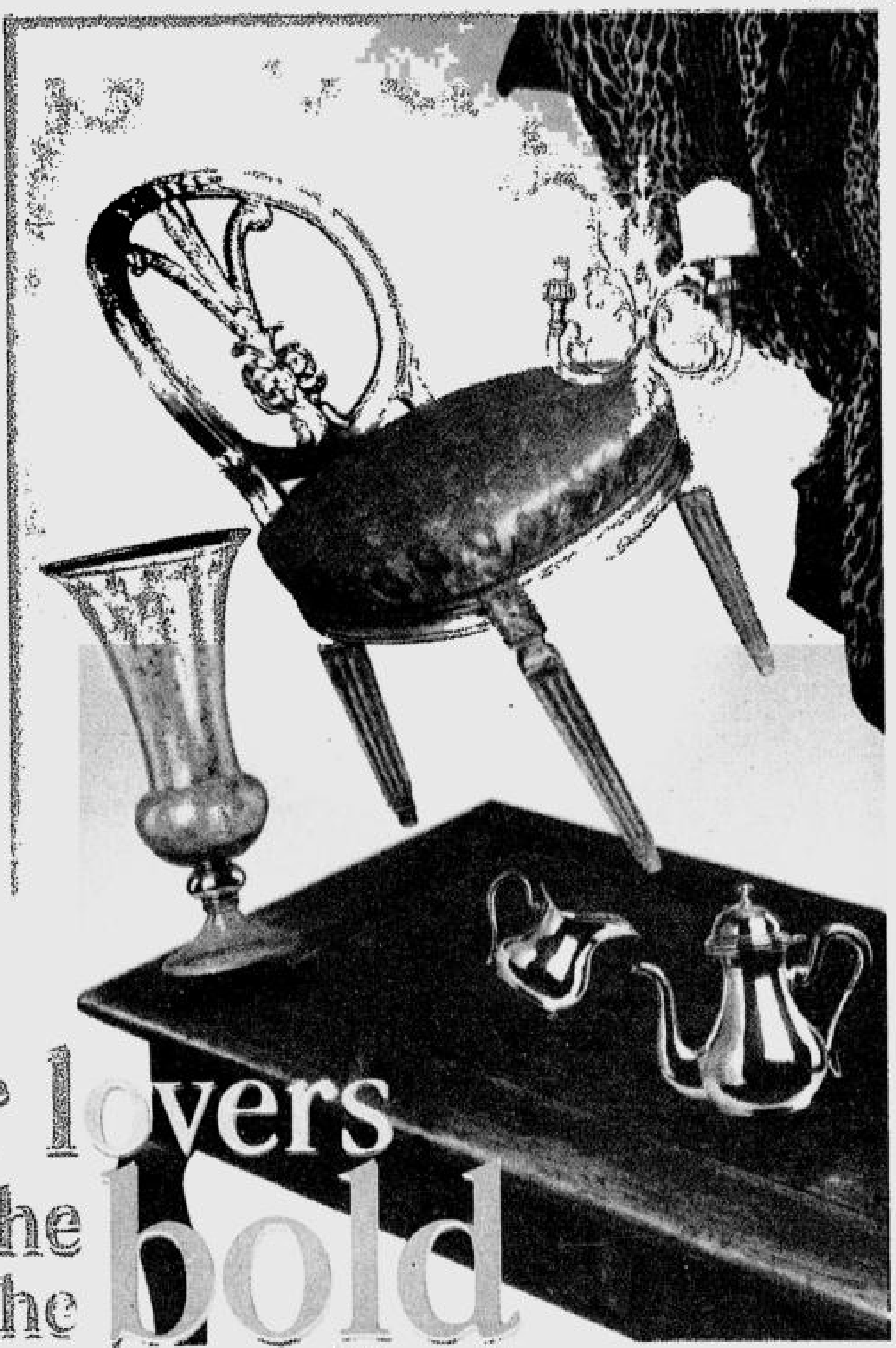

NARRA table (c. 19th century) with kilo legs and burl-framed top from Bohol, Sterling silver tea and coffee set with English design, crystal nd fine silver speckled vase from Florence, 18th century gilt chair from a villa in Capri, five-bulb sconce with fleur-de-lis motif and animal-printed upholstery

# For lovers of the bold and the beautiful

**By Meluchi A. Rivera**
*Contributor*
**Photography and digital imaging by Bobot Meru**
**Concept and pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos**

**OH, what treasures await the resolute soul who finds Mentxaka! This shop of things brand-new but of the old world, and select Philippine furniture from a more genteel era, sits in a quiet corner of Pasong Tamo Extension in Karrivin Plaza, nearly hidden behind a row of restaurants and a Starbucks outlet.**

One can marvel at distinctive hand-made objects in silver and glass, from the renowned Italian houses of Cassetti, Paolo Gasparetti, Belfiore, Del Conte, Rossi & Arcandi. There are cutlery sets, tea servers, goblets, trays, carafes, candelabra, vases and champagne chillers (of small and *grand* proportions). Then there are delicate sconces, lamps and chandeliers from P&P of Florence; graceful period furniture of French, Italian and English origin; sumptuous fabrics from Simonetta Fumagalli; and large, rambling local antique pieces from churches and grand old houses of the South.

## Starting out

The personable Lourdes "Doody" Tuason is proprietor, purchaser and promoter of Mentxaka. Tuason had previously worked in the travel sector and also pursued a career in public relations, but finally gave into her lifelong fascination with all things old and beautiful.

As a child, Tuason laughingly recounts, she entertained dreams of becoming an archeologist, but that her mother balked at the thought of her *hija* working in remote jungle or desert sites. Now this avid traveler keeps to the more cosmopolitan avenues of Milan, Florence and Venice for her "digs," and revels in "unearthing" items executed by modern masters but infused with the tradition and craftsmanship of centuries ago.

Tuason's enthusiastic jaunts have brought her into the homes and workshops of some of Italy's oldest artisan families. It comes as no surprise that she cultivates close ties with her suppliers, and has even collaborated with them for some of the more exclusive pieces. "I love the artisans, their way of life," she gushes. "If they feel that you have genuine appreciation for their craft, then you really connect with them, and they welcome you."

The store carries Tuason's maiden name (in the old Basque spelling) and her family coat of arms. That seems apt because in essence it is her sensibility that is on display on the shelves. And that aesthetic comes across as bold but not loud, ornate but not gaudy, distinctive but not pretentious. "I buy what I myself would like to have," she admits, smiling. "In that way, I don't think like a merchant."

## Mix and match

As Tuason is herself a mix of west and east (Spanish heritage, Filipino upbringing), so too is the store a showcase of western elements mixed with local pieces. Antique 18th century *kamagong* and *narra* tables are paired with starkly modern Lucite chairs (incidentally the only items not for sale in the store), or more dramatically, with medieval high-backed Bolognese chairs. On a rough-surfaced vestment table and an Archbishop's chair from an old Philippine church are displayed sleek Italian silver frames, candelabra and hand-blown glasses.

The store's shell enhances this mix-and-match atmosphere, as the opulent silver items, lighting and furniture are in sharp contrast with stark blue-gray walls and floors lined with slabs of concrete pavers. The point is to show that the pieces are timeless, and can blend with even the most modern interiors.

Tuason had envisioned a shop for a discerning, but not necessarily deep-pocketed, clientele. Mentxaka carries articles that make for great gifts and are, surprisingly, very affordable. "I think a lot of Filipinos are highly evolved," Tuason notes. "Even those who can't pay for an item in one go, if they find something they love, they indulge their passions."

Since its soft opening in May, the store has attracted a following among the older set. But Tuason cites a Spanish saying that goes, as translated: "Of taste, there is nothing written." Thus, whether for young couples furnishing homes, office workers seeking gifts for bosses or prized clients, or just anyone with an eye for the distinctive, Mentxaka has something.

Tuason invites even lovers of the minimalist over for a look-see, especially if they seek that one special item to add warmth to their space. She explains sagely: "When you decorate a space, it's like having a party. If all the guests are young, how interesting would that be?"

## Perfect hostess

Mentxaka's proprietor strikes one as the perfect hostess, someone who enjoys wine and conversation; and while she is an admirer of fine things, she is not a slave to them. "If you have something that you love, use it. *Even* if it's expensive. Actually, *especially* if it's expensive," Tuason explains with a flourish. She points to a lounge chair upholstered in antique red and gold brocade. "What good is that if you can't sit on it? By all means put your feet up on it! That's what it's made for."

Each piece has a wealth of history and it is almost as if it asks to be touched, desired, owned and, eventually, passed on.

"I'd like to think of the things we carry as the beginnings of tradition." Tuason says. After all, these are heirloom pieces, not throw-away things. "When you buy things you see at Mentxaka, they won't just end up with you. You hand them down to your children or grandchildren." Who will no doubt be delighted to inherit them.

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ATMOSFERA IS LOCATED AT 2/F GLORIETTA 4. TEL. 894-4286.

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

# Gallery of moods and possibilities

ATMOSFERA marks Store Co.'s evolution from a store offering home items of utilitarian quality, to one that carries things for enhancing the ambience and character of any space. The distinction is like night and day. In contrast to Store Co.'s previous offering of pillows in spartan cotton or raffia, Atmosfera carries lush silk versions with embroidery, beading and tassles. Stark, generic cups and drinking glasses have been replaced with orbs of blown glass in amber, blue, purple and green. Conventional candlesticks have made way for molded forms that evoke exotic Buddhist carvings. Minimalist lamps have been displaced by Sixties-style lava-lounge lanterns.

Atmosfera's layout makes efficient use of narrow space by lining both sides with rows of box-like structures that essentially serve as frames for the many moods—atmospheres, if you will—set by varied arrangements of the items for sale. Thus the place a gallery of tastes, décor and possibilities.

Here the Oriental dwells alongside Scandinavian aesthetics, and cool kitsch co-exists with the functional. Overall, the look is like something out of a fusion cuisine cookbook—minus the food.

Half of the goods here are imported, but the more distinctive items are made locally, designed by Carlo Tanseco.

## Sidetracked

Together with his siblings, Tanseco cut his teeth in retail via Tickles, their mother's enduringly successful vision of a teenybopper's what-nots heaven. Eventually, the young Tanseco gravitated toward product design and worked with CITEM as consultant for local exporters.

Tanseco's accessory designs have graced store shelves and homes in the United States, Europe and Latin America. This is the first time that many of his creations are available locally. He feels that the shop's present incarnation is the perfect palette for his expertise as both designer and retailer.

"Where Store Co. had a large and varied collection, Atmosfera's pieces are carefully edited," he explains. He also thinks the collection is a more accurate reflection of his personal taste. "I can go to the store blind-folded, pick up any item, and proudly give it to a friend as a gift."

## Global trends

Tanseco is constantly looking for new ways to showcase Philippine materials. Among the items in the present collection, his personal favorite is the Stockholm Vase. He had designed it using local wood chips with brass inlays arranged in stripes or Mondrian-like squares of six different colors. What makes the piece remarkable is that the wood, while not stained, naturally casts different shades of blue-gray, yellow, cream and orange.

On Atmosfera's shelves are showcased accessible accent pieces, many of them brandishing names which are—like the store's new appellation—evocative and witty. There is the embroidered silk Ming pillow, the tufted Morocco pillow, the mottled Zulu vase, the Sudan amber lamp, the striped blue-and-white *copa de luna* drinking glass.

One also comes across downright quirky articles, such as a pair of stoic ceramic mud frogs which can be used as door stops, outdoor planters, and candle/incense holders.

The shop's evolution is in keeping with global trends. Tanseco notes that consumers of the new millenium are tired of the frenetic, mass-market, fast-food lifestyle. People in many parts of the world are spending more time at home, returning to their roots, becoming more family-centered. As a reflection of that, buyers now look for the "human component" in items as seemingly insignificant as a notebook, a candleholder, or a water glass.

"People are probably sick of the 'Made in China' look—mass-produced, machine stamped items. They want things that look like time was invested in making them," Tanseco says.

There is little in the way of large furnishings in Atmosfera. Each carefully chosen piece comes in an attractive, sturdy storage box, and is carried in limited quantities.

Seeing the response to the shop it would seem that the market does thirst for craftsmanship. "You'd be surprised," Tanseco says. "In this day of disposable furniture, people are willing to pay for distinctive pieces with that 'exquisite' factor." ***Meluchi A. Rivera***

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**NEWLY** refurbished Horizon Club evokes Old World warmth with 21st century aesthetics. Undulating waves psychologically suggest calmness in the middle of a bustling city.

# *Shining, shimmering, splendid*

A stay at the Makati Shangri-la's newly renovated Horizon Club is 'like being Alladin and having a personal genie'

DURING a casual encounter, a London-based businessman told Marguerite Holazo that he had just spent his Manila visit at Makati Shangri-la's newly renovated Horizon Club floors.

He had tried all the business floors in hotels around the world, he said, including Hong Kong's Grand Hyatt and the world's no. 1 favorite, Mandarin Bangkok. Although Makati Shang's Horizon Club may be modest in size at 256 sq. m., the businessman enthused, it is there that he had his best experience ever. Holazo smiled at the unsolicited endorsement. The businessman discovered soon enough that he was talking to the Shang's marketing director.

For many years, the Makati Shangri-La has been dominating market shares in the central business district. The hotel is not resting on its laurels, though. Its rooms recently underwent a major facelift, and after only a month in operation sans fanfare, the renovated Horizon Club consistently registers a 60-percent occupancy.

The hotel had commissioned Hong Kong-based interior design firm Leese Robertson Freeman Designers Limited, to create an elegant, modern, yet calming environment.

Modernity is reflected in the choice of materials—steel, glass doors, leather, chrome and wood veneer. Elegance is interpreted in velvet upholstery, Canadian maple frames and tables, and bathrooms of Italian marble.

The club lounge, bathed in shades of warm gold and brown, is L-shaped, to maximize the view of the city. The space is divided into clusters of sofas and armchairs, with 42-inch plasma TV sets. Centerpiece of the ebony-veneered food station is a glass bar fashioned out of 1,600 kilos of glass pieces imported from Hong Kong. The table setting consists of flatware from Germany, china from Japan and wood-and-metal accessories from Thailand. For breakfast, guests can have the usual eggs or indulge in smoked salmon, and wash it down with a bottle of Evian.

As early 8 a.m. there are businessmen using the workstations, or having closed-door meetings in private conference rooms that offer a view of the cityscape.

Even the rooms are tailormade for the business traveler—with a curved work desk and an ergonomic armchair, computer, Internet access, and a personal five-in-one facsimile machine. The bed, with a king-sized Simmons mattress, faces the window.

"The environment lends itself to both work and relaxation," says hotel manager Wolfgang Krueger. Gurgling water fountains on the elevator landings, repetitive undulating wave motifs on the carpets, and cove lighting help create a peaceful mood even before the guest reaches the room or lounge.

Thus the Shang's business floor is truly at par with those of the world's other leading hotels. What gives it an edge, Holazo points out, are Filipino hospitality and the signature Shang training. Staff and crew go out of their way to please the guests. In fact, the hotel recently received the World's Business Hotel Award for the Philippines from Travel & Leisure magazine, and was named Best Business Hotel in Manila by the Business Traveler magazine.

Soon after a guest's wake-up call, the purser comes to deliver the papers on a silver tray and serve morning coffee or tea. Frequent guests—those who stay at the hotel at least 12 times a year—are provided with their own monogrammed robes and towels.

Since the lounge is open for 24 hours, a hard-working guest can ask for paper clips in the middle of the night. One who has journeyed from across the Atlantic can beat jetlag in the 24-hour gym. All this and more, for US$180.

As one recent visitor said, it's like being Aladdin, and having a genie at one's beck and call. ***Marge C. Enriquez***

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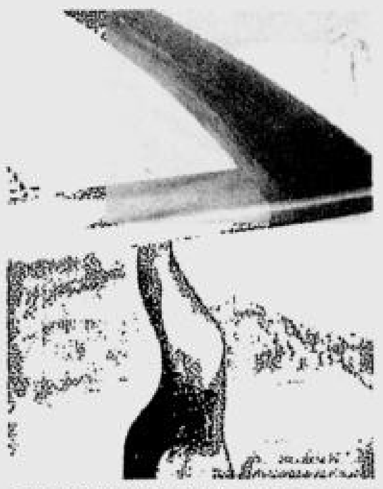
# Functional sculpture by Benji Reyes



**HAPAG-KAINAN.** Made from *narra* and *molave* with *dungon* legs

WOOD sculptor and furniture craftsman Benji Reyes would seem to know wood like the back of his hand, having been at it for 20 years. But he is as astounded as we are about little discoveries that he continues to make while handling recycled indigenous materials.

His latest Gallery 139 exhibit showcases distinctive pieces of functional sculpture in rare recycled hard wood. It will run from Nov. 15 to Dec. 4 at Art Space, Glorietta 4.

Highlights of the labor-intensive event, which took eight months to put together, include such unique pieces as "Alay kay Abueva," inspired by the National Artist. The five-seater bench is made from a *narra* slab, with undulating *ipil* posts.

"Silya ni Eena" is a chair fashioned out of flexible *dao*. "Linggohan" is a chest of seven *yakal* drawers.

"Hapagabubot" is an accent table with a massive *molave* burl top supported by a hand-carved winding *saplungan* base called *pilipit*. "Mag-anak," a sculpture carved from a *molave* post, represents love, unity and security in a family of four.

# Taking Italian food beyond the unexpected

By Amando Doronila

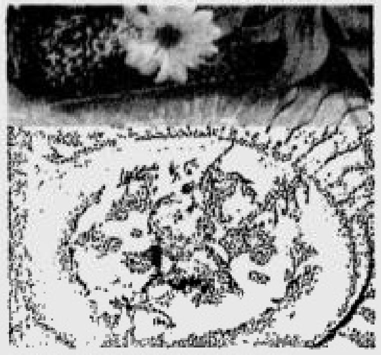


PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

**CARPACCIO** d'aragosta con patata al cavilae (Warm carpaccio of lobster with potato caviar)

THE ADVENT of a new chef foreshadows a menu change, and this is exactly what happened four months ago, when 30-year-old Michele Mingozzi took the helm at Mi Piace, Peninsula Manila's Italian restaurant. Close on the heels of his stewardship, Mingozzi, introduced "weekly specials" to the restaurant's menu. The main characteristic of the new menu is that it includes novel combinations that only emphasized how Italian cuisine can lend itself to endlessly fascinating permutations.

One of the specials that we reviewed consisted of dishes picked out of the series of specials. But before we proceed, let me say that Mi Piace's range of breadbasket remains excellent and offers a wide choice. Crusty and fresh bread should be a strong point for any restaurant worth its salt, and yet many Manila restaurants, which otherwise serve good food, ignore the bread, some of which are soggy and look like suffering from fatigue. Nothing dampens the appetite more than limp bread.

## Inventive

Peripherally, Mi Piace has good atmospherics. You can't enter it without passing by the open kitchen and its igloo-shaped oven. There pizza and grilled meat or fish are cooked. In the territory of the open kitchen, Mingozzi presides and the smell of roasted food permeates the restaurant. When entering restaurants, I have made it a habit to see how the kitchen is like and whether it has a good oven, and an open kitchen is reassuring for its transparency.

The menu of that evening consisted of dishes, which were not only inventive but also gave new flavors to the already versatile Italian cuisine. The appetizer was *carpaccio d' aragosta con patata al caviale*, which in plain English translates to warm *carpaccio* of lobster with potatoes caviar. Lobster is not the ordinary ingredient for *carpaccio* and this dish gets good marks for originality, if not creativity.

Italian cooking does many things with lamb. Chef Mingozzi's *pappardelle con agnello, peperoni e olive con olio di pomodoro* (*papardelle* with lamb, bell pepper and olives with tomato oil), does wonder with lamb. The ingredients used with the lamb rescue the dish from the run-of-the-mill variations of lamb-based dishes.

## Lamb and fish

Being not a hearty eater, I thought the lamb was enough. But another dish, which could be another main dish, came. It was *filetto di spigola ni corsta di sale con pomodorni* (sea bass fillet in salt crush with cherry tomatoes and basil oil). Cooking is about mixing ingredients, which make the difference.

Sea bass has become an obligatory item in the menus of better Manila restaurants, and like salmon, these two fishes seem to be considered a test of a restaurant worth a second visit. Personally, I have developed a resistance to the sea bass and salmon routine, and I am open to trying other fish varieties, whether imported or of local origin. But Chef Mingozzie's approach to sea bass enabled it to regain its culinary appeal.

For dessert, we had a variation of mango, which wiped out the traces in the taste buds of a rich, though light, main dishes. Upon the chef's recommendation, we had a bottle of white Italian wine, Pinot Grigio, whose label for determining its origin, I had not time to examine. But more important is the wine blended harmoniously with the food.

## Weekly specials

Examining the weekly specials could be tedious. It might be better for guests to examine them, in which case, the element of surprise could be rewarding. There are the usual pastas and pizzas and of course, minestrone soup. For meat dishes, there are the angus beef fillet poached in red port wine with mashed potatoes and red onion confit, *osso bucco con risotto allo zafferano* (braised veal shank with saffron rice), the traditional roasted rack of lamb with olive crust, braised ox tail with polenta and vegetables, and grilled baby chicken with fried new potatoes and grilled peppers.

For fish and seafood, choices include escalope of salmon with saffron and chive sauce, braised Chilean sea bass with ratatouille sauce, sautéed *lapu-lapu* with potatoes, tomatoes and parsley, steamed mackerel with basil-mashed potatoes and pesto, and poached lobster with broccoli purée and fried zucchini.

But let's not spoil your fun for adventure and discovery. Offering the unexpected is a gift, and a test, of a good chef. Chef Mingozzie does not want for credentials. He has extensive work experience in restaurants and hotels in Italy, Germany and Britain. He has worked in Michelin-rated institutions such as Restaurant Schwarzwaldstube in Germany, Ristorante la Frasca, La Pergola Gourmet Restaurant and Hotel Lord Byron in Italy.

Most likely than not, one will see him at the open kitchen as a hands-on dirigente, if he is not greeting arriving guests.

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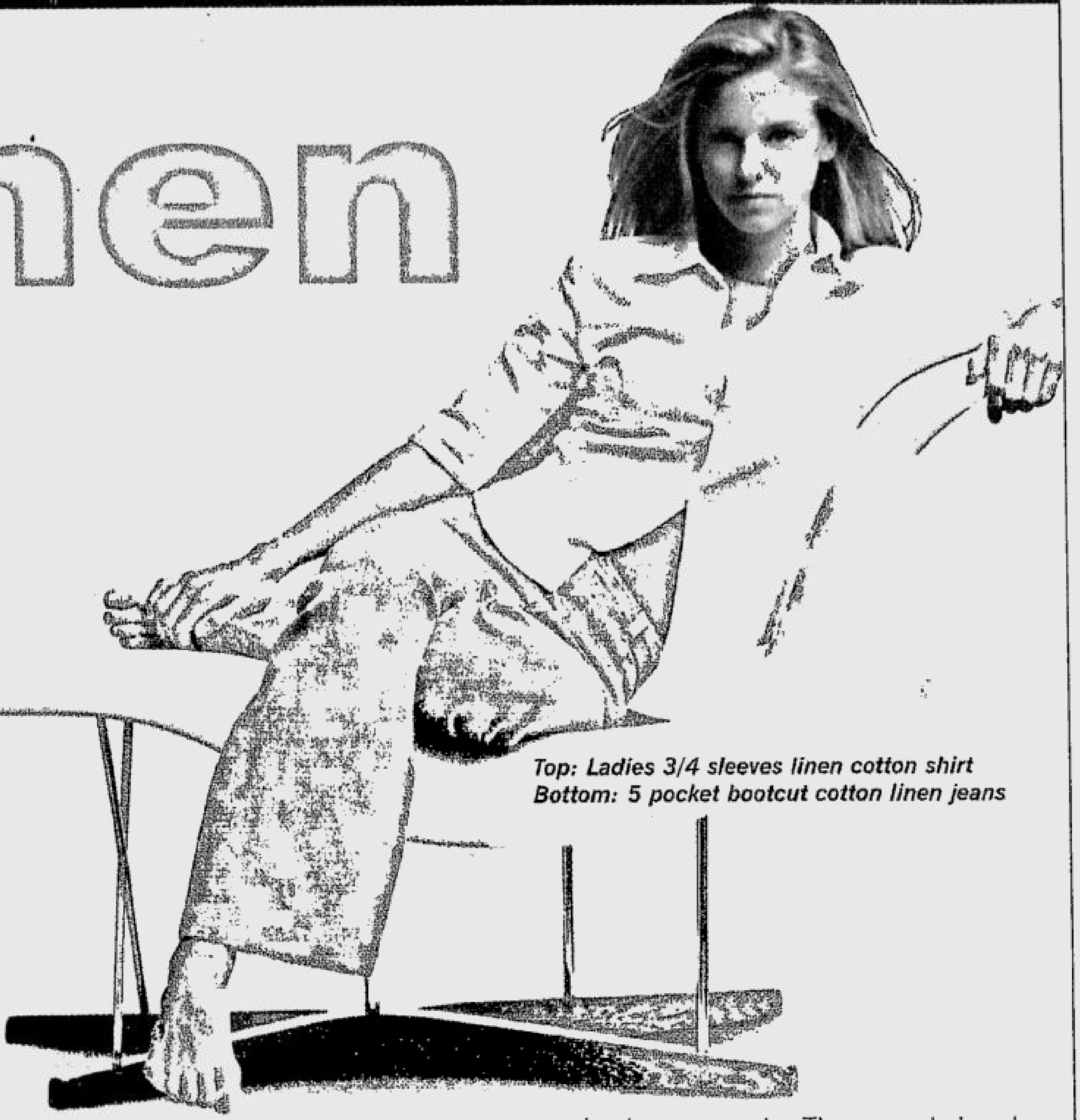
# simply linen



Top: Ladies 3/4 sleeves linen cotton shirt
Bottom: 5 pocket bootcut cotton linen jeans

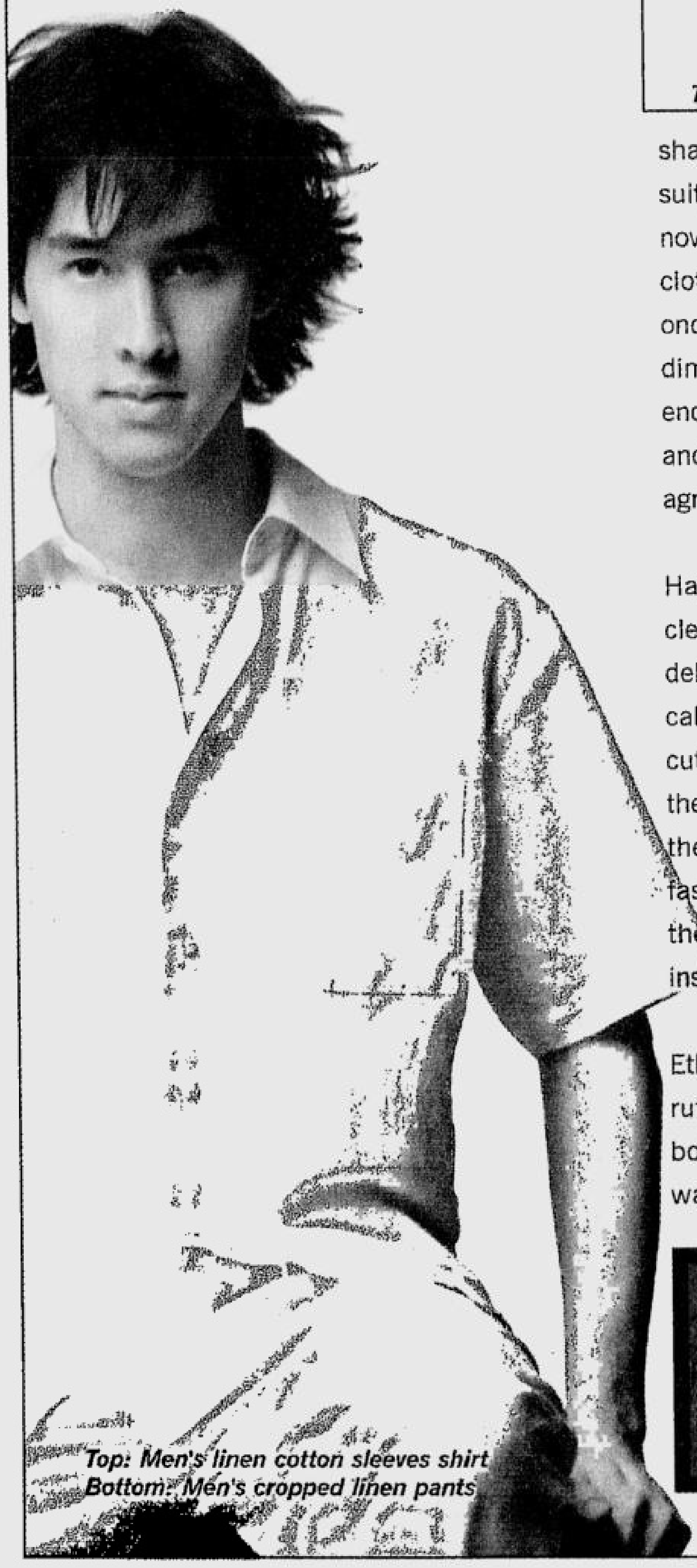
By **Vera Enriquez-Isberto**

**It's as timeless as the classic white polo shirt or a pair of well-worn chinos: it's linen, Giordano's fabric of choice for its latest collection of neutral-colored casuals.**

Giordano's SIMPLY LINEN collection offers men's and ladies' fashion in a fine blend of quality linen and cotton. Merging cotton's properties with that of linen means that clothes can be machine-washed, as opposed to pure linen outfits that require strict dry-cleaning. They're also easier to iron; cotton-linen garments are more wrinkle-resistant compared to all-linen apparel. What's more, Giordano's cotton-linen combination promises softer and smoother clothes without sacrificing linen's trademark rich texture. And blending two breathable materials ensures light and airy apparel: beat the heat and humidity in a fabric that's as fine and gauzy as a handkerchief or in its heavier hemp form.

Reinforcing SIMPLY LINEN's fresh look and feel are the subtle shades of white, khaki and black. A favorite among young professionals because it allows them to dress sharp and stylish without having to don a suit, Giordano's white and khaki collection now leans towards casual-yet-chic designs, clothes that are comfortable and classy all at once. Meanwhile, black adds a whole new dimension and versatility to a collection with endless mix-and-match potential. Like white and khaki, black is an all-around color that agrees with any mood or occasion.

Top: Men's linen cotton short sleeves shirt

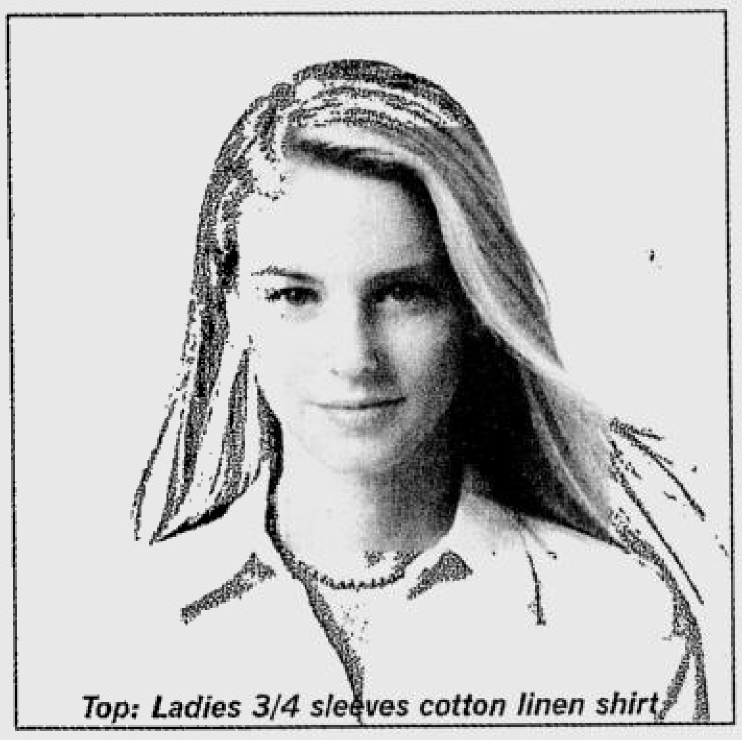


Top: Men's linen cotton sleeves shirt
Bottom: Men's cropped linen pants

Having established itself as the source for clean and classic styles since its commercial debut 13 years ago, Giordano continues its calling to deliver the most basic looks and cuts in its SIMPLY LINEN collection. Hence, the traditional polos, pants and jackets are there, but interesting new details allow fashion-conscious shoppers to express themselves in a variety of looks and inspirations.

Ethnic trims, embroidered accents, frills and ruffles, and lace ups lend a laid-back, bohemian appeal, as do drawstring waistlines on long and loose trousers and cropped-cut cargo pants. The crumpled and creased effect achieved only by linen likewise gives the wearer an offbeat, easy-going air. Want to look like an adventurer in an exotic land? Then slip into a textured jacket and comfy drawstring pants. Feel like a painter or poet? Tops with lace ups and pull strings should appeal to your artistic sensibilities.

Matching these styles with other coordinates from your existing wardrobe achieves attractive results as well. Faded blue jeans, frayed denim skirts, stretchy sleeveless tank tops, and the ubiquitous crew neck cotton tee all agree with the casual and comfortable theme advocated by SIMPLY LINEN.



Top: Ladies 3/4 sleeves cotton linen shirt

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# Rapper Eminem is now getting more respect

EMINEM. Little love from mainstream America.

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Until recently, it seemed only kids—and music critics—could love Eminem.

## Homophobe

Politicians condemned his obscenity-laced and violent lyrics. Gay and women's groups blasted him as a homophobe and misogynist. The Grammy-winning Detroit rapper had millions in album sales, but little love from mainstream America.

Well, he's still not America's sweetheart. But some of the vitriol directed at Eminem has diminished—replaced not just by grudging respect, but by downright enthusiasm from some unlikely quarters.

"The guy is funny, smart, and sometimes shocking," author Stephen King gushed on his website. "Those are all things I look for in rock and roll."

Oscar-winning composer Randy Newman called Eminem a "kindred spirit."

Writer Paul Slansky, a self-described middle-aged white guy, penned a New York Observer column titled, "Guess Who Thinks Eminem's a Genius? Middle-Aged Me."

## Movie

Whether the 30-year-old rapper has softened or America has just grown more accepting, "he has started to interest serious, grownup audiences that would have dismissed him as a teenage hip-hop phenomenon," said New York Times critic Janet Maslin, who spent time with Eminem on the set of his upcoming movie, "8 Mile," for Premiere magazine.

"He's moved out of the youth ghetto."

Interest in Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers, should grow even more with the release of "8 Mile," loosely based on his own troubled youth. The movie, directed by "L.A. Confidential's" Curtis Hanson, and Eminem's performance in it have received early critical acclaim.

"I think he's going to earn a lot of respect from people," said Sia Michel, editor in chief at Spin magazine, which has Eminem on its December cover. "They're going to see that he's clearly a talented guy."

Not that people doubted Eminem's talent. His first disc, 1999's "The Slim Shady LP," was praised by critics for its twisted, demented but humorous wit, and earned him the

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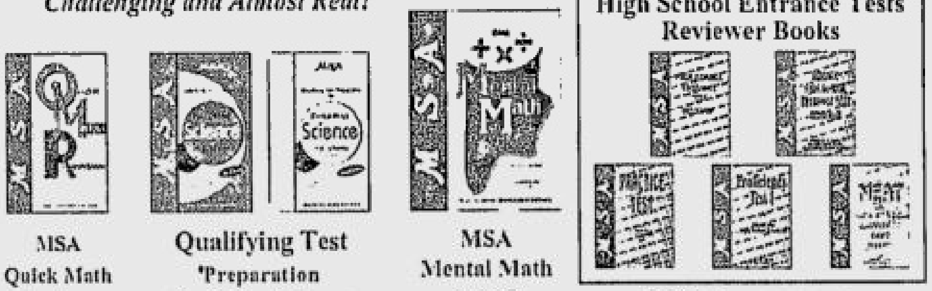

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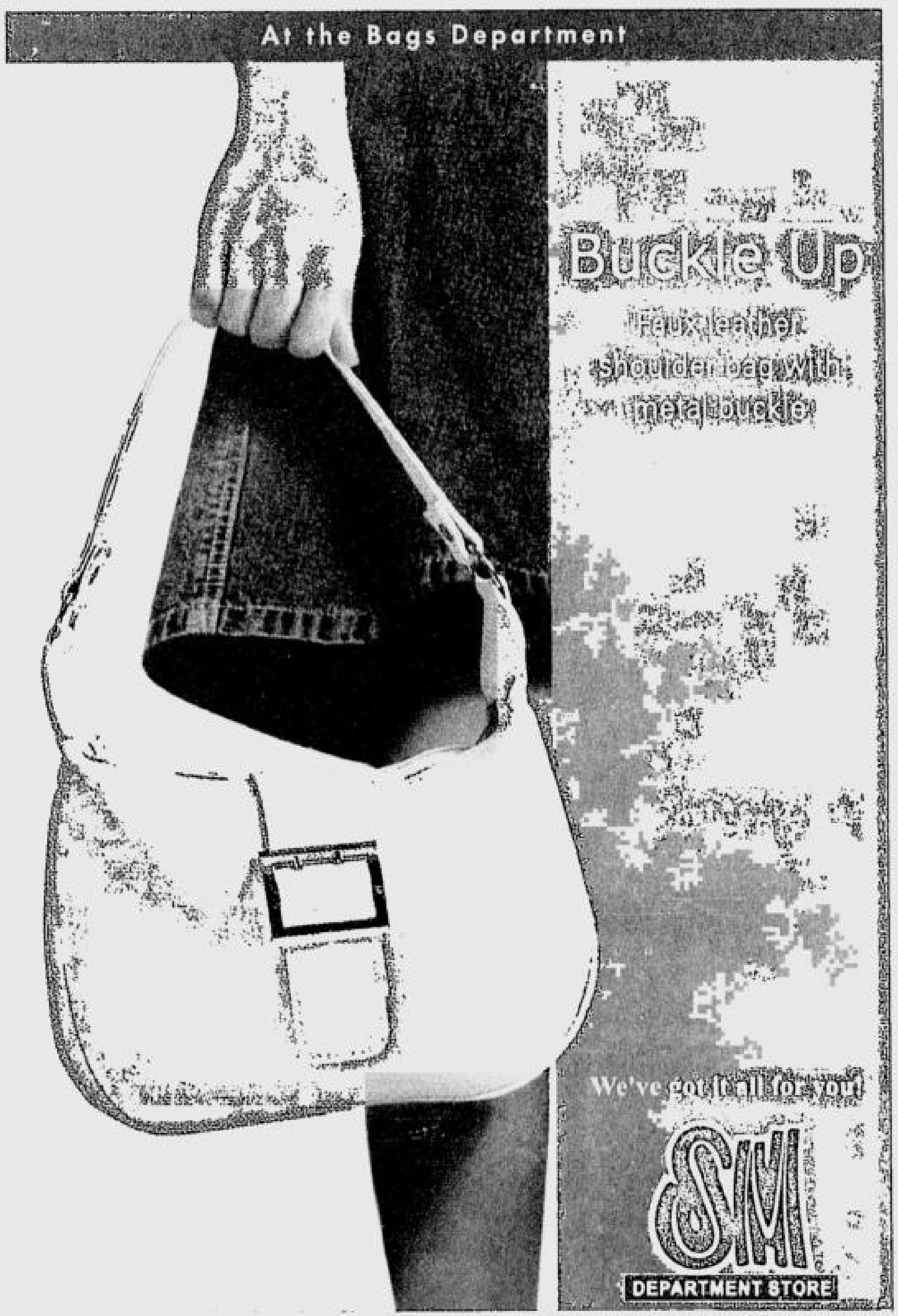

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| 17 | Simply The Best 60's | Various Artists | |
| 18 | Paradise | Kenny G | *1moretime* |
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| 20 | Barenaked | Jennifer Love Hewitt | |
| 21 | Live Series | Various Artists | |
| 22 | Ono Lisa Best 1997-2001 | Lisa Ono | |
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# Buboy and Mary come back home—to the TV screen

**By Norma Japitana**

FOR more than a year now, the family of Buboy and Mary in "Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis" has been missed on the small screen.

### Miramax

In that time interval, Buboy (Cesar Montano) went to Australia to film for Miramax, while Mary (Maricel Soriano) joined the bewitched of Harry Potter with her own "Mary d' Potter."

But "Kaya ni Mister" is too good to miss. Also, it has always been a top-rated show. So, the bosses at ABS-CBN have decided to bring the family back. The sitcom will be on the TV screen again on Nov. 16.

The first taping day was scheduled three days after Cesar's arrival from Australia.

Mr. M (Johnny Manahan) is directing with Victor de Guzman as his assistant. The premiere episode starts with an airport scene, with Cesar and Maricel returning from their stint abroad. Their son JunJun has been left behind to study in Australia.

Since Nova Villa is still fresh from her "Mary d' Potter" appearance, she is made to "stay in the province" for two months before she can be brought back as Nanay Goreng.

The new characters in the family are Gloria Sevilla as Mary's aunt and Shaina Magdayao as Mary's niece.

Bayani Agbayani isn't in the new sitcom because he already has three TV shows on ABS. Taking his place are Smokey Manaloto and Earl Ignacio. The new police chief is Dyords Javier.

SORIANO and Montano (center, seated) are surrounded by their revived sitcom's other regular cast members.

### Fight

Right after their arrival, there is a fight with a character called Daking (Al Tantay as guest) who is into drugs. Cesar has the chance to do some stunts with hulking goons led by Kris Aguilar. Shooting this scene made Cesar feel that he was truly home again. The shoot was around the Magnatech area. Yes, you can come home again, even after a Hollywood movie!

Back at the studio, they shot the first bed scene with Mary. Their home is bigger now, paid for by Buboy's earnings in Australian dollars. It's a big difference from their ramshackle home near a creek in their former sitcom.

### Natural

Mary was in red pajamas, looking more beautiful with her hair down to her shoulders. She was a natural with Buboy, making *cariño* to him that he should never go back to the police force, what with so many police officers getting killed, the bombings, etc. Buboy just stopped her with a kiss and they looked at each other sweetly before wrapping up the scene.

The new "Kaya" has Jenny Miller taking the place of sexpot Izza Ignacio. And they have a stunning beauty as guest in their first episode: She is Cindy Korleto, an Austrian-Filipina beauty who is definitely beauty-queen material.

Her Tagalog is still off but in due time, she can give the likes of Donita Rose a run for her money. Cindy plays the coroner attached to Buboy's SWAT team.

One advantage of "Kaya" is its sense of family—the Filipino family, that is—this time no longer poor, but middle class, like many OCWs' families now. After making money abroad, Buboy and Mary have come back to make the Philippines their home again!

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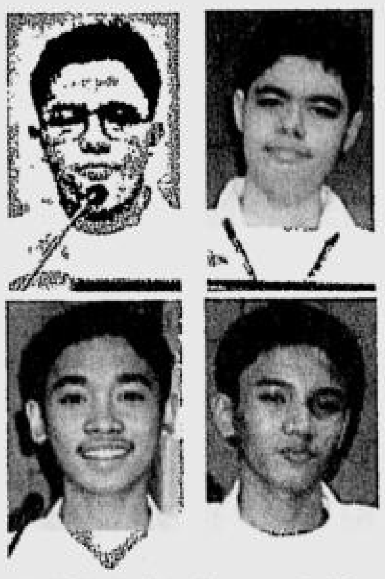
GRAND finalists (from top left) Parial, Salonga, Caliguia and Yabut.

# 'LG Digital Quiz Show' finals telecast this Sunday

**By Nestor U. Torre**

ON Sunday, Nov. 10, the popular "LG Digital Quiz Show" will telecast its grand finals for 2002 at 10 a.m. on Channel 7.

### Excitement

We attended the taping of the final showdown some days ago because we were asked to judge an adjunct arts competition involving the schools of the four finalists, so we were able to share in the excitement felt by the contestants and their parents, mentors and schoolmates.

The four grand finalists: Renerio Salonga Jr., Makati Hope Christian School; Jed Andrey Yabut, Colegio de San Juan de Letran; Lawrence Lloyd Parial, Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology; and Renz Jerome Caliguia, St. Vincent's Academy of Apalit, Pampanga.

The taping started early in the afternoon at the Sylvia P. Lina Theater at the Angelo King Center for Performing Arts, De La Salle Santiago Zobel School, Ayala Alabang, and lasted until early evening.

### Arts competition

The arts competition we judged presaged the formal quiz finals, and consisted of brief group performance pieces on the theme of youth and the future, capped by an art object or tableau.

The winning performance piece stood out because it most succinctly vivified the role of young people in crafting a better tomorrow, and was characterized by originality in music and lyrics.

### Difficult questions

When the quiz show's grand finals proper unfolded, the audience of students, teachers and parents was on tenterhooks as difficult questions followed one after the other, leaving the four young finalists little time to rest between each Q and A round. But they were completely focused and determined, despite the highly stressful situation.

It was only towards the end, when a break was called by director Pat Perez, that the finalists allowed themselves to wearily sit down and collect their wits.

That was when we were reminded that they were only high school students, and yet they had to deal with so much stress because they stood to win more than P1 million if they turned out to be the best of this already very good lot.

### Well-rounded

Right after he was declared the 2002 grand champion, the winner was interviewed for another TV show, and he made the people around him admire him even more because he showed with his responses that he wasn't only a nerd or "walking encyclopedia," but a well-rounded young man who could also sing well and appreciate the arts.

Even more tellingly, his mother and mentor were present, and they shared instructive stories about how they had trained the champion to develop himself to his full potential.

The "LG Digital Quiz Show" has clicked with students and teachers not just because of the big prizes it offers, but also because it inspires students watching the program to work hard at their studies and develop themselves in the different areas of their lives.

### Role models

It makes learning fun without diluting the task of acquiring knowledge. It relates education to real-life situations. And it makes bright students role models in school, new campus heroes who are looked up to for their all-around excellence.

This is a big improvement over how things sometimes were in the past, when bright kids were regarded as too bookish and serious to be believed—or liked.

As the quiz show's winners in the past years have shown, brainy youths are champions in all aspects of their lives. And their accomplishments, when showcased on television, make the possibility of excellence accessible to other students as well.

With the help of their teachers and parents, more whiz kids will get their chance to prove their worth during the new season of the "LG Digital Quiz Show"—which begins on Nov. 17.

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FREESTYLE. New musical perspectives.

# Freestyle releases third studio album

**By Jocelyn Valle**

IT has taken quite a while for Freestyle's third studio album, "I Wanna Get Close," to materialize. "Because we've been traveling to the States for shows," explains the band's vocalist and lone female member, Jinky Vidal.

### Concert

Fortunately, music buffs can't seem to get enough of their version of Ogie Alcasid's "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," which they performed with Pops Fernandez in their Aranata Coliseum concert. It's now heard on CDs and cassettes, so their fans are reminded of Freestyle although they're often not in the country.

"We started recording in April," shares Jinky about making "I Wanna Get Close." "But recently *lang na pukpukan sa* recording, *mga* two months *'yun*."

Top Suzara, Freestyle's other vocalist, agrees. "We faced a lot of trials and challenges while making the album," he recalls. "There were nights when we even slept in the studio just to finish the recording."

"This album," he continues, "is about looking at another perspective in our lives as musicians. We believe that there is a lot more to explore when it comes to our music, and we're taking off with this album.

"There's a bit of experimentation in terms of sound. We incorporated different types of sounds here—R&B, acid jazz, alternative and pop jazz. We didn't really follow any particular concept. We just wanted to give our fans a variety of songs with the Freestyle touch."

### Hit tunes

Jinky adds that people who fell in love the band's hit tunes "Before I Let You Go" and "Slow" are in for a surprise. "Adult contemporary *ang dating nga mga* songs dito," she allows. "*Sa lahat ng mga* projects *namin*, we really try to experiment. We want to try something new everytime."

"I Wanna Get Close" is also the product of events in the band members' lives in the past few years, particularly the untimely demise of their manager Bolix Suzara, who was also the father of guitarist Tat and the uncle of Top. "We would never have come this far without your guts," writes Jinky to Bolix in her list of thank-yous.

"*Maraming nangyari at nag*-reflect *'yon sa* music *namin*. I'd like to believe that as we get older, we also get better," shares the 26-year-old singer, who's been singing for nearly a decade, starting in Davao.

### Dance mix

Two cuts in the 10-song album (plus a dance mix of "I Like The Way") are already popular. The title track is the theme of the current Close-up TVC (with Kyla sharing vocal chores with Jinky and Top).

"Paano" is a remake of a Gary Valenciano original. Although the band is a fan of Gary V, they didn't really plan to include the song in their latest recording.

"I did a duet of that song with Janno in his 'Divas and I' album," explains Jinky. "*E, sa mga* gig *namin, parating nire*-request *'yan*, so we decided to do our version of 'Paano.'"

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# Viewers compare three music video channels

**MTV'S Donita Rose is still the VJ to beat, as far as many Filipino viewers are concerned.**

By Noelani Torre

THE MUSIC video has fully established itself as a major entertainment and television genre. From simply-shot sequences of bands performing songs in a studio, it has evolved into an extravagant and complicated mini-movie that can cost millions to produce.

## Popularity

Due to the popularity of music videos (there are awards given for best videos and the genre has even developed its own A and B lists of directors), it's only natural that TV channels would get their thumbs into this particular lucrative pie.

MTV is the major music video channel, but its monopoly has been challenged in recent years by such other music TV channels as Channel V and MYX. Wanting to find out how all three are fairing, we asked some music video aficionados to compare them with each other. Their responses:

## Boring

"*Mas magaling yung mga* VJ *sa* MTV. *Yung iba kasi, nakaka*-bore most of the time, *Mas nakaka*-attract *din yung* set-up *ng* MTV, *mas makulay. Malaki din and naitutulong nung gumagalaw na* background.

"I notice *sa* MYX *na* obvious *pag nagsalita ang mga* VJ *na meron silang kodigong binabasa.*

"*Maayos naman ang* Channel V, *kaya lang minsan sobrang seryoso ang mga pinapatugtog nila, ang bigat ng* feeling. *May* point *na mabo*-bore *ka na lang dahil wala masyadong* variety.

"*Yung* MTV, commercial *ang dating pero nagseseryoso din pag kailangan, 'tsaka maganda ang pa-sequence nila ng iba't -ibang* type *ng* music."—*Angela Bermejo, Baguio City.*

## Liveliest

"I've noticed that MTV has the liveliest and most well-spoken VJs, especially compared to the VJs of MYX, who look self-conscious and unsure of themselves most of the time. The VJs of Channel V, *naman, medyo* forgettable *yung mga* personalities.

"MTV also has the most varied programs and collection of artists and music videos.

"I've also noticed *na* usually, *nauna ang* MTV *magpatugtog ng* new songs *keysa sa* Channel V and MYX. Maybe it's because MTV has had quite a head start. In time, Channel V and MYX could come up with more attractive formats."—*Rorie Manalang, Bulacan.*

## Biased

"MTV rules! I admit I'm biased about that, crush *ko kasi si* Donita. But, you know, MTV was there first *naman talaga.* The rest, *gaya na lang.* Channel V is okay, but sometimes their presentation is boring. (*At hindi si* Donita *ang* VJ!)

"*Ang* MYX *naman, sakit sa ulo.* Make up your mind—*ano ba talaga kayo,* videoke channel *o* music video channel? *Nakakatawa pa yung ilan sa mga* VJ *nila,*clueless *ang itsura.*" —*Ched Ramos, Quezon City.*

## Distracting

"I'm after the music, so I don't really care which channel I'm on, as long as I'm viewing the video I want. I just don't like MYX's videoke effect, it's distracting. You concentrate on the lyrics instead of on the video.

"MTV is the most organized, I think. They have different kinds of shows and styles. *Kaya lang,* sometimes I wish they'd concentrate more on the music. I don't like those fashion and style shows *na sinisingit nila.*

"Movies are OK, but fashion is not necessary, I think. That's why Channel V is sometimes better. They concentrate on the music."—*Ma. Linda Tan, Cagayan de Oro City.*

## Glossiest

"MTV is the glossiest among the three and it is very appealing in that sense. They have many programs and some of them do not concentrate on music videos only. Their VJs are also more confident.

"Channel V is less glossy. They don't have as many different programs as MTV, but they concentrate more on music. MYX is annoying. I get irritated with VJs who are fake and sound scripted. I hate the lyrics they display with the video. It's OK to put lyrics, but not as big as that."—*Car Murillo, Manila.*

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# Rapper ...

From page D1

first two of his five Grammys. He was the first white rapper since the Beastie Boys to enjoy street credibility and admiration from both blacks and whites.

But there was anger over his lyrics, which included violent fantasies about his estranged mother and his wife and anti-gay slurs.

## Personal battles

The rapper's personal battles didn't help. He was arrested twice in 2000 for weapons violations (he received probation). He went through an ugly divorce and custody battle over his young daughter.

When "The Marshall Mathers LP," which sold eight million copies in the United States alone, was nominated for album of the year in 2001, there were howls of protest—even more so when openly gay star Elton John agreed to perform with him at the Grammy ceremony.

Scott Seomin, entertainment director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said that controversy helped Eminem's career: "All of that attention has brought him more into the mainstream."

Slansky said that before the duet with Elton John, on the song "Stan," "I was aware of (Eminem), and I kind of thought, and most people my age probably thought, he's not for me.

"When I heard that song, I thought, this was one of the best songs I ever heard." *AP*

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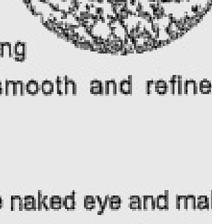

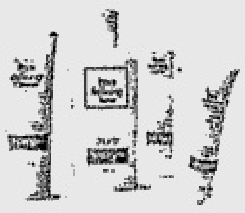

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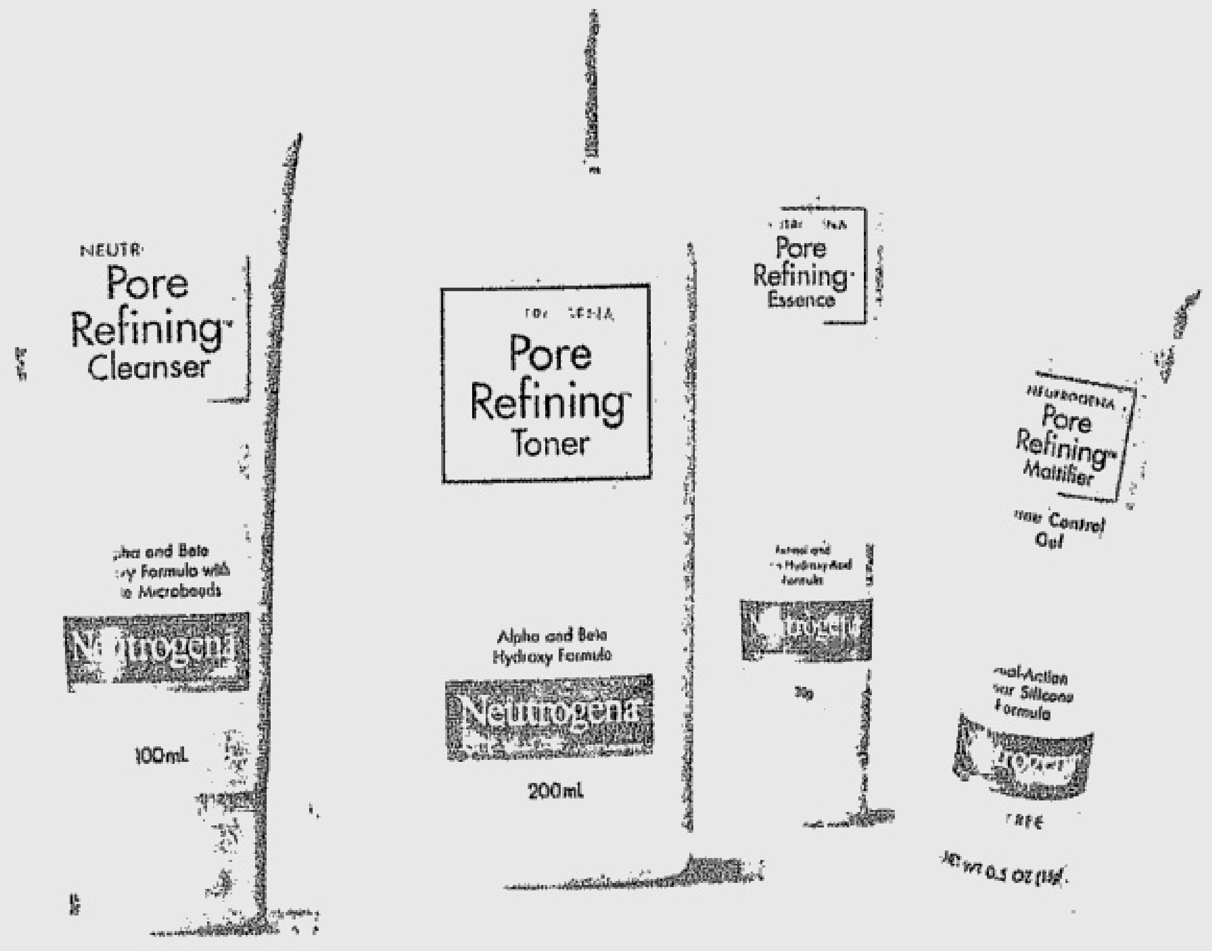

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# Nora and Vilma, golden girls in 2003

By Nestor U. Torre

DON'T look now, but by May next year, Nora Aunor will become a golden girl. And, by November 2003, Vilma Santos will be following suit.

Yes, the two perennial "friendly rivals" of Philippine movies will be "officially" easing into their mature years, despite the fact that they look younger than their chronological age.

## Active

More importantly, they are turning 50 while remaining active in their chosen art and craft, unlike many of their contemporaries who have long decided to call it quits. Nora topbills Channel 2's new soap, "Bituin," while Vilma has an important new film, "Dekada '70," showing at the end of the year, *and* a new drama show in the works.

They haven't done badly in the field of politics, either. Nora is known as a "kingmaker," having helped Joseph Estrada become the country's president, before their bitter parting of ways. And Vilma is Mayor of Lipa City, the wife of Sen. Ralph Recto, and could be aiming for an even higher post in the future.

## Spouses

(—All the way to Malacañang? It is one of our "informed fantasies" that, a decade from now, Senators Recto and Kiko Pangilinan will be running for the highest office in the land, with their respective spouses, Vilma and Sharon Cuneta, hoping to end up as First Lady. That is, if FPJ doesn't run in 2004, and Susan Roces doesn't beat Vi and Sharon to the cherished slot.—But we're getting ahead of our story—*way* ahead!)

**AUNOR AND SANTOS.** More great performances left in them.

Back to next year's golden girls, Vilma and Nora: Vilma began acting in 1963, when she was only 10 years old. She beat over a hundred other little girls who auditioned at Sampaguita Pictures for the big break of playing the title role in "Trudis Liit." Two years later, she played the young Imee Marcos in "Iginuhit ng Tadhana," and again in 1969 in "Pinagbuklod ng Langit."

## Movie career

When she turned 16, Vilma's movie career perked up even more, and she was paired with either Edgar Mortiz or Tirso Cruz III in a number of Sampaguita and Tagalog Ilang-Ilang films, after which she produced her own movies (most significantly, "Pagputi ng Uwak, Pag-itim ng Tagak").

She changed her "sweet" image with more daring films like "Burlesk Queen" and won acting awards for her performances in "Dama de Noche," "Relasyon" and "Sister Stella L," among other films. Thus, she was finally able to match the stellar achievement of her rival, Nora, and they in fact co-starred in some "acting-duel" productions that both excited and delighted their respective hordes of fans.

## Expressive voice

For her part, Nora won the "Tawag ng Tanghalan" singing tilt as an adolescent, and captivated the entire country with her expressive voice and soulful eyes. At first, she didn't look like "movie star material" with her petite stature and dark complexion, but it turned out that these very same "limitations" were in fact what prompted millions of Filipinos to empathize with her and make her the country's first superstar.

She made movies with her mother studio, Sampaguita, and other companies before, like Vilma, she also put up her own production company. She astounded everyone when she turned out to be just as good an actress as she was a singer. But her career experienced more low points than Vilma's more consistent progression.

## Latest comeback

Despite everything, however, she's been able to recover lost ground several times, and has embarked on her latest comeback this year.

We trust that, when Nora and Vilma turn 50, they will continue performing, because we believe that they have more great performances left in them. In fact, their best work may be the result of their new maturity, starting next year.

# *Assunta goes bold for the last time in 'Bahid'*

**OCAMPO and De Rossi co-star in Lamangan's film.**

By Edmund L. Sicam

SEXY star Assunta de Rossi goes bold, probably for the last time, in "Bahid" a film by Joel Lamangan. In Assunta's words, "It's about a family that's messed up. *Ako yung rebelde.*"

## Hint

Just to give a hint of how "messed up" this family in the movie is: "*Anak ako ni* Dina Bonnevie. *Pero sa umpisa ng* film, *akala ko ate ko siya. Tapos bayaw ko si* Tito Eddie (Garcia). *Nira*-rape *niya ako, kaya naging luka-lokahan ako. Tapos si* Diether (Ocampo), adopted son *ni tito* Eddie *na naging asawa ko.*"

Isn't the story too far removed from real life? Are there really families this messed up? She compares it with her own life: "*Kung baga, yung* story *namin ni* Jules (Ledesma), *kung hindi nangyari sa tunay na buhay tapos gustong gawing pelikula, malamang pagtatawanan lang ng* producer!"

Does she feel the press has been fair to her? "Yeah, some of them." But mostly...? "*Hindi sa akin*, unfair to him. *Kasi masyado siyang hinusgahan, masyado pinalabas* that he's the monster, the control freak."

Assunta defends herself against criticisms hurled against her. Number one, the money: "*Hindi naman ako nagtatrabaho ng libre*. For the record, I just bought him a car. So do I need him for his money, or what?"

## Control freak

Number two: that Jules is a control freak. "*Ang sabi niya*, 'If I did that, then I'd be like everyone else, controlling you.' *Kasi ganun ako* all my life. He doesn't tell me what to do, *I* tell him what to do. *Baligtad. Ako ang* boss. *Ako ang kontrabida*. He's only trying to open my eyes to the consequences, but it's still my call.

"*Kasi sabi niya*, 'Since you're going to be my wife, I want you to be self-actualized and I want to empower you. *O, mamili ka ng bagong* tiles *ng banyo!' Ha? Hindi ko alam! 'Basta, gusto ko, ikaw mamili*, I want you to start with small things. I want you to decide for yourself.'"

Number three: that Jules changed her, that she became a different person because of him.

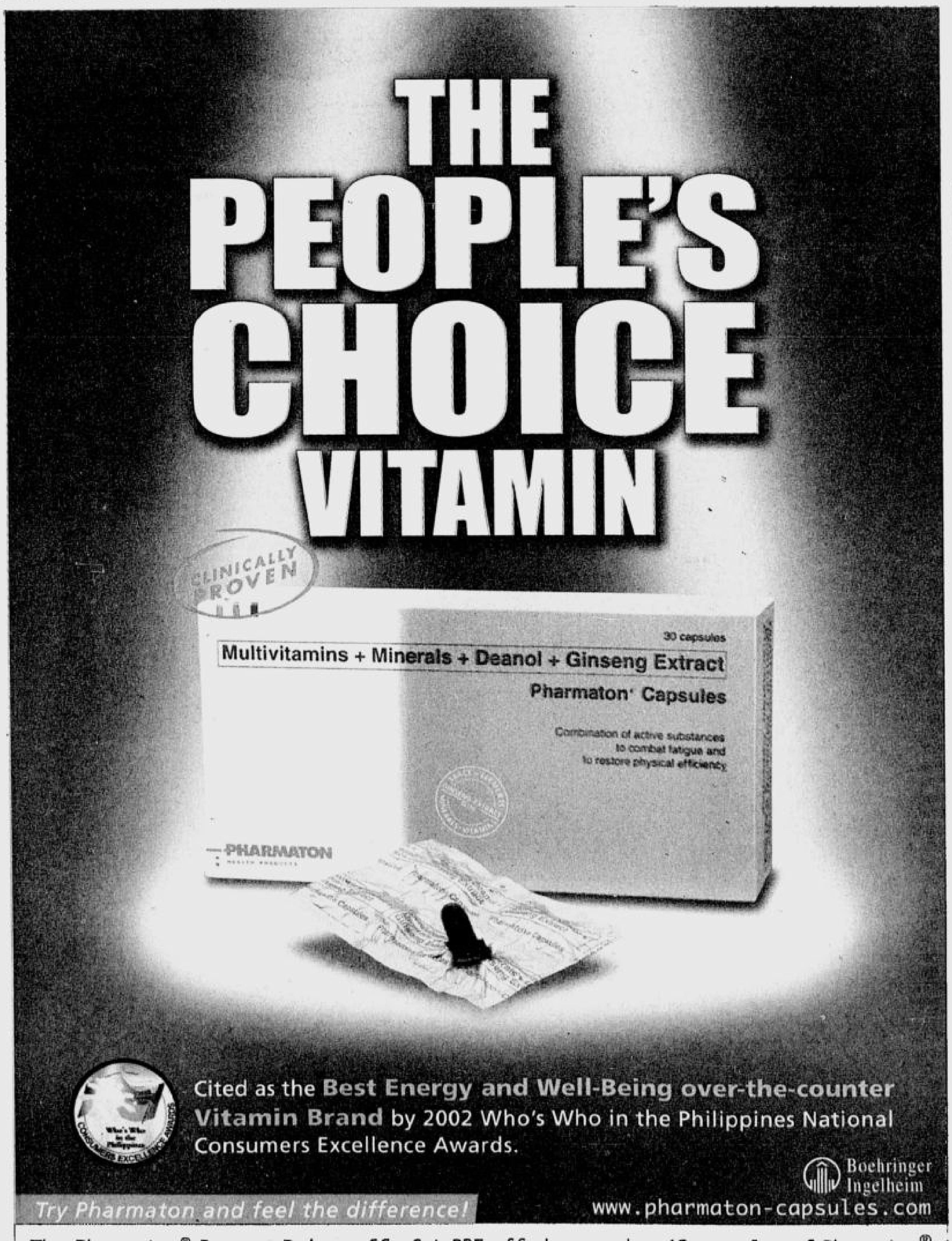
"*Hindi, linabas lang niya yung totoong* persona *ko*." She doesn't talk differently because of him, she says: "I'm a Montessorian. *Ako ang nagdagdag sa* vocabulary *niya!*"

The church wedding is set for January 2004. The civil wedding will be in December. Why do they need to wed civilly instead of going straight to the church wedding? "*Gusto ko lang maging* legal. In fairness *naman*, the pastor said, 'Even if you are civilly married, that's right in the eyes of God.'"

## Wedding

Okay, so why not stop at the civil wedding? "Important *ang* church wedding—*siyempre, hindi simple-simplehan lang, di ba? Ang daming imbitado, mga* politicians *at mga taga* show biz."

How's her relationship with Jules' kids? "I'm more like their best friend, their older sister. *Ayaw nilang humiwalay sa akin*, kiss *ng* kiss *sa akin. Mahal na mahal nila ako.*"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**STREETBOYS.** From left, Danilo Barrios, Jhong Hilario. Back, from left, Christopher Cruz, Spencer Reyes, Vhong Navarro.

# Streetboys are back in a new adventure

By Remy M. Umerez

THE STREETBOYS are back in "Shortcut: Spirit Warriors 2"—the adventure continues!

## Mysterious amulet

The sequel is set in the Philippine Middle Ages, where a mysterious Babaylan is nearly killed by Spanish guards while protecting a mysterious amulet.

Fast-forward to present-day Manila. The supernatural investigators known as Spirit Warriors have disbanded after their last terrifying adventure. Now, a crisis in Red's (Danilo Barrios) family will force some of its ex-members—Thor (Vhong Navarro), Buboy (Jhong Hilario) Jigger (Spencer Reyes) and Ponce (Christopher Cruz) to reunite to help save Red's grandmother (Gloria Romero) *and* the world from an eccentric millionaire who plans to unleash unspeakable evil on mankind.

The "shortcut" in the movie's title refers to the path which non-living spirits use when they visit the world of the living. It is the path the Spirit Warriors dare to tread.

The adventure to piece the amulet together takes the boys from a mysterious house in Vigan, into the depths of a mysterious forest and into a turbulent river. Exotic Biri Island in Samar was used for some of the otherworldly locations, as well as Magdalena near Mt. Banahaw.

## Television

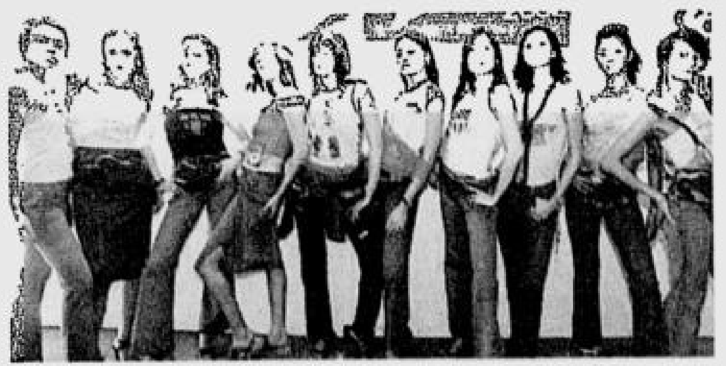
Danilo's handsome face is familiar to televiewers since he appears in several shows on ABS-CBN. He made it on the big screen in "Spirit Warriors" followed by "Cool Dudes" and "Yamashita (The Tiger's Treasure)."

Jhong won raves in such important films as "Sa Pusod ng Dagat," "Muro-Ami," and "Bagong Buwan," all directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya.

Christopher plays Ponce, who's busy with the wedding of his mom to Steve, soon to be his stepdad.

The "veteran" among the Streetboys is Spencer Reyes. He had a string of movies and TV shows to his credit. Spencer was out of the limelight for a few years, but makes a good comeback in the role of Jigger in "Spirit Warriors 2."

Vhong is the comedian among the Streetboys, eliciting laughs with his gags. In the sequel, he runs a rice toppings stall at Star City.


**MTV FASHIONISTA MODEL SEARCH 2002**

**THE MTV Fashionista Model Search 2002 will have its finals night on Nov. 12 at the NBC Tent. Shown above are the 10 finalists for the best female model: From left, Duckee Timaro, Monica Padilla, Riva Parkinson, Gilmarie Pacamarra, Cecil de Guzman, Francesca Briñas, Ella Evangelista, Nikki Quesada, Love Bacallo and Bambi Abdulsani.**

# Martin to do two shows in one day

**By Edmund L. Sicam**

IS Martin Nievera out of his mind? Well, he's been called the "Madman," so we shouldn't be surprised that he's doing a matinee show *and* an evening show on Nov. 16 for the final day of "Opening Night: Martin Nievera Back Onstage, The Repeat" at Onstage Greenbelt.

## Performance level

Still, we wonder how he hopes to keep his performance level at its maximum with only a few hours' break between the two shows. We've seen his shows and the back-breaking repertoire he goes through. But this is the Concert King so, if he wants to do two shows in a day, he probably knows what he's doing.

This is the nth time he's performing at Onstage this year and people are still coming. Nov. 16 is supposed to be his last day but one never knows, with the kind of audiences we have.

Just what is it that keeps people coming back? For his latest gig, he does the usual Martin hits, cover versions and the recent chartbusters of Enrique Iglesias, Josh Groban and Creed. Then there are classics from Barry Manilow, James Ingram and Seals and Croft. But Martin doesn't stop at singing.

He has other gimmicks, like a special celebrity guest in a "Late @ Night" portion in the show. We still remember his take-off on "Spiderman": he sang upside down in mid-air and kissed a girl from the audience. One time, the girl happened to be his ex-Pops Fernandez.

## Audience participation

Then he has audience participation features that always get a lot of laughs. Once he followed a man who was going to the restroom and waited for him to come back before doing his next number. Another time, he left the stage to harass members of the audience and came up with some funny unrehearsed repartee. The audience giggled when he stood in front of a concertgoer who had dozed off, proving that even his powerful songs can lull some people to sleep!

The number that's really a showstopper is his Broadway medley, which tests his vocal chords to the limit. For his effort, the audience always gives him a standing ovation.

This, we feel, is what sets Martin and a few other singers apart from those who may have powerful voices but lack the charisma to hold the audience's attention for an entire evening. Some performers merely sing, while Martin entertains—and that makes a big difference.

**NIEVERA.** Doesn't stop at singing.

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# Spanish film lashes out at racists

**By Leia Torre**

ANOTHER movie that we enjoyed at the recent festival of Spanish films was "Bwana"—the word that Africans used to call their white colonizers. The movie tells the story of a family of four (father, mother, son, and daughter) who went on a trip to look for cockles, but ended up meeting all sorts of people, instead.

## Drunks

First, there were the drunks the father, Antonio, had to pay off so that they would leave his family alone. Then, there were the thugs who owned the trailer where they stopped to ask for directions. Finally, there was the African, Indurain, who knew no Spanish except "Viva España!"

Through a series of mishaps, the family ends up having to spend the night on the beach with Indurain. They're suspicious of him because he's black and, according to the racist mother, Dori, "full of germs." But he ends up saving them from having to placate the drunks once again, and they spend the rest of the night in peace with the one of the drunks' cousin, Rafa.

## Skinny-dipping

Things get complicated when the thugs find the group, and discover that Dori has gone skinny-dipping with Indurain. The racists threaten rape for Dori and castration for Indurain.

Rafa distracts them by stealing one of their motorbikes, and Dori is able to escape. In the end, the family refuses to help Indurain when he needs it the most, and leaves him to the mercy of the thugs.

The movie is succinct and textured, and has its share of funny moments. It's hard to imagine so many mishaps happening in such a short span of time, however. The characters are very vivid, and have their own eccentric personalities. In fact, Indurain seems the most sensible of them all.

## Potshots

The movie also takes quite a number of potshots at racists in general, depicting them as cruel bigots who have nothing better to do than persecute their fellow human beings. Racists should be made to watch it and see themselves in those thugs and Dori.

The last shot of Indurain waiting for his death because of Antonio and Dori's refusal to help him is very poignant, and will stay in the minds of viewers long after they have finished watching the movie.

# Insider's view of 'Hollywood's greatest flop

From page D8

made during the transition period in American filmmaking, when the big mogul-led studios were being replaced by international conglomerates and corporations, as was the case with United Artists. *(To be concluded)*

# Vina scores big

From page D8

posed to highlight the musicality of the former sweethearts.

The latest is that Dingdong will just be a guest and the main act will be Rachel in a show scheduled on Nov. 15 at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

"I hope everything goes well," Rachel says. "It would have been nice if Dingdong had agreed to a back-to-back show."

Rachel clarifies that there's no bad blood between her and Dingdong, and that she treasures the three years they were involved with each other.

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# Oscar winner is latest Bond girl

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

HALLE Berry is the first female African-American star to have won a Best Actress Oscar (for Monster's Ball"). Why then would she want to "compromise" her artistry by coming out in a "shlocky" James Bond movie?

"First," says Berry, "I don't think James Bond films are shlocky. Second, there really is no compromise involved. It's what you do to the character assigned to you that's key. And I try to do my best with every role I agree to do.

"Besides," she grins, "being in a Bond movie adds luster to my Oscar's gold. I enjoy being a James Bond girl!"

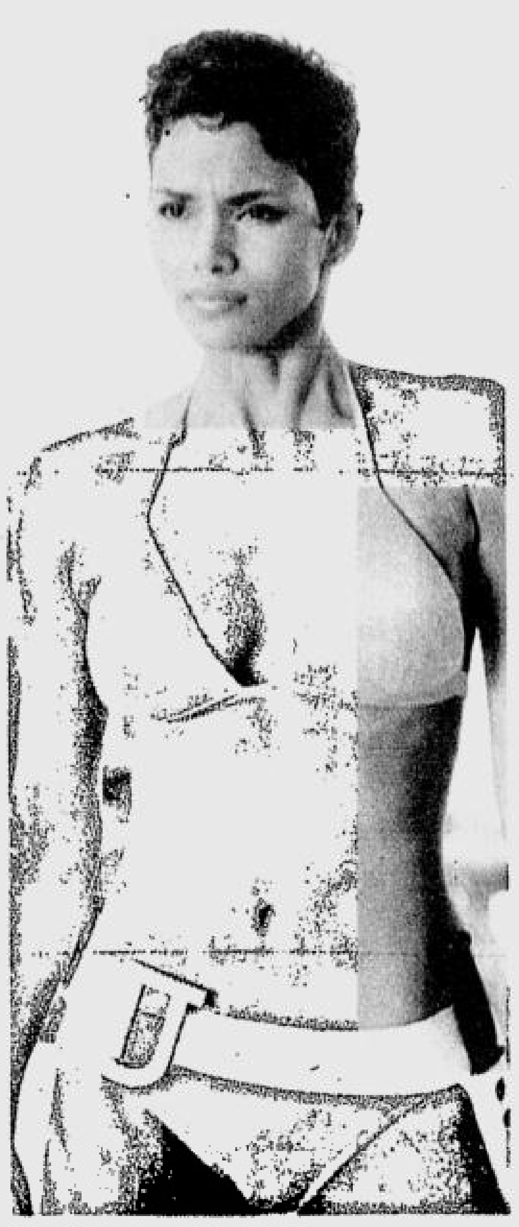
Berry reveals that she's a Bond fan—"more of the last four or five, actually. When I was younger, some of the stories were so complicated, I often wondered what was going on. I have been more on their wavelength recently, and I enjoy them more."

In the new Bond film, "Die Another Day," Berry plays Jinx. How does the actress relate to the character?

"I like her, she's really strong. I also like the fact that she's the next step in the evolution of the 'Bondwoman.'

"Year after year, they've gotten a little stronger and smarter—while still retaining their sexiness. That's the most empowered woman to me—someone who can be sexy *and* tough at the same time."

Movie fans are likely to agree. This early, the buzz is that Halle Berry will turn out to be one of the most memorable Bond girls yet, right up there with Ursula Andress.



**BERRY.** Enjoys being 007's latest screen squeeze.

### Art as Therapy workshop

Ugo Bigyan will teach an Art as Therapy workshop at the Center for Collaborative and Creative Ministries on Sunday, Nov. 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The day starts with prayers, which are followed by relaxation techniques, before the full-day pottery-making session.

While working with clay under Ugo Bigyan's tutelage, the worshopper expresses himself and experiences release, thus the beneficial nature of the workshop. The workshop fee covers all expenses, including materials and firing the workshoppers' works.

Ugo is a dear friend of the Center. He donated the beautiful pottery art pieces in its prayer room. The Center is at 12-A Alfonso XIII st., San Juan (near the police precinct). The Center's phone number is 705-1179.

**ALCARAZ** (right), now Alta's president and chief operating officer, with Joel Jimenez.

### New head at Alta

Alta Productions has a new head. Recently, Joel Jimenez, vice chairman of the board and chief executive officer, named 34-year-old Edmund "Mon" Alcaraz as president and chief operating officer of the innovative production house.

Alta has won awards here and abroad. It produces the popular game shows "Digital LG Quiz" and "imGAme."

Its new president started as an account executive with GMA Marketing and worked his way up to becoming concurrent general manager of Alta Productions and Channel [V] Philippines.

He was also the executive vice president of the Image One multimedia company, which maintains the popular Channel Big electronic billboard along Edsa.

### Aiza in RPN special

This December, Aiza Seguerra will join other stars in topbilling the RPN Christmas Special. Proceeds from the Christmas show will help foundations like Caritas, Smokey Mountain, Give-a-Life, Ephpheta and Hope Worldwide.

The RPN special, "Pamasko sa Bagong Taon," airs at 9 p.m. on Dec. 8 on RPN-9. Taping for the special was an emotional experience for the young star, because it was at RPN where, as a precocious tyke, she had her start on "Eat Bulaga."

### Ben Affleck in 'Changing Lanes'

In "Changing Lanes," Ben Affleck embraces his role with much excitement. "I think it was important for me to show I could do more as an actor and go deeper and try different stuff. One of the things really interesting and different about this movie is that there's no really good or bad guy. There's no clearly defined-protagonist," say he.

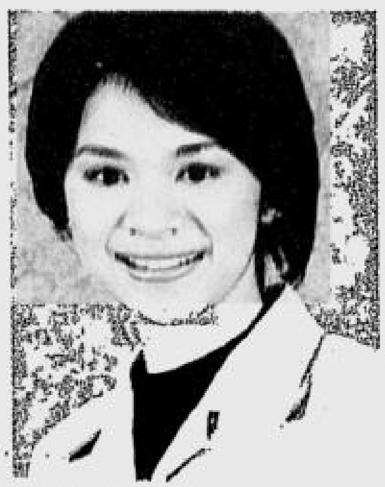
Affleck plays a lawyer in "Changing Lanes" and shares key scenes with Samuel L. Jackson, who portrays a recovering alcoholic.

Affleck describes the film as "an unusual, smart and complex look at human nature and the way that people interact with one another. Hopefully, through watching these characters, viewers will be able to think about their own lives."

SWITCHING CHANNELS

# Marieton Pacheco hosts 'Balitang Middle East'

**By Edmund L. Sicam**



**PACHECO.** Big break.

MARIETON Pacheco is a familiar face on ABS-CBN newsbreaks and the newscasts on Studio 23's "Breakfast." Starting today, the lovely news reporter hosts her own program on the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), "Balitang Middle East," which airs at 8:30 p.m.

The show is a community-oriented news and public affairs program that will feature our OFWs in the Middle East. It will be produced by the ABS-CBN News Bureau in the Middle East headed by Danny Buenafe.

Other features are activity announcements on the OFW organization bulletin board, job openings abroad and a *"kumustahan"* portion where relatives of OFWs will be able to call their loved ones for free.

This is a big break for 24-year-old Marieton, who has been a field reporter of the network's news department for the past three years. In 1999, she joined the Sarimanok News Channel (SNN) after earning a Comm Arts degree from De La Salle University. SNN would later become ANC.

Her staff work involves covering the Sandiganbayan and that means following the developments of the Joseph Estrada trial.

She's happy about her new assignment because it involves not just reading the news but also conducting interviews with relatives of OFWs and handling the public service portion of the show.

She has been married for the past four years and has a three-year-old child. Despite her busy schedule, she manages to fulfill her duties as a wife and mother.

### Promo for Globe subscribers

Globe subscribers can win Nokia 7650s and Siemens S57s or one of three Ford Sport Tracs in the grand draw by watching the Pop Quiz portion of "The Great Globe Adventure" hosted by Paolo Bediones and airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on GMA.

The show is a test of strength, skills, agility and brains in one extreme sports extravaganza. "The Great Globe Adventure" will soon head for Cebu, Baguio and UP Diliman in a winner-take-all survival-of-the-fittest competition culminating in the Ultimate Challenge for P1 million.

The million peso pot will be at stake on Dec. 1 when the finalists compete in an urban jungle obstacle course that will cover the entire metropolis.

### John Lapus at Folk Arts

Comedian John Lapus is on pins and needles these days because his concert at the 7,000-seat Folk Arts Theater is only one week away. On Nov. 16 at 8 p.m., he will find out if he has what it takes to fill up the venue the way Ai Ai delas Alas did during her solo concerts.

John has invited Ai Ai, Dessa, Bing Loyzaga, Rufa Mae Quinto, The Company, Christian Vasquez and Jessa Zaragoza to help him entertain the audience. He promises that his guests will not just make cameo appearances but will join him in production numbers. Call 891-5618.

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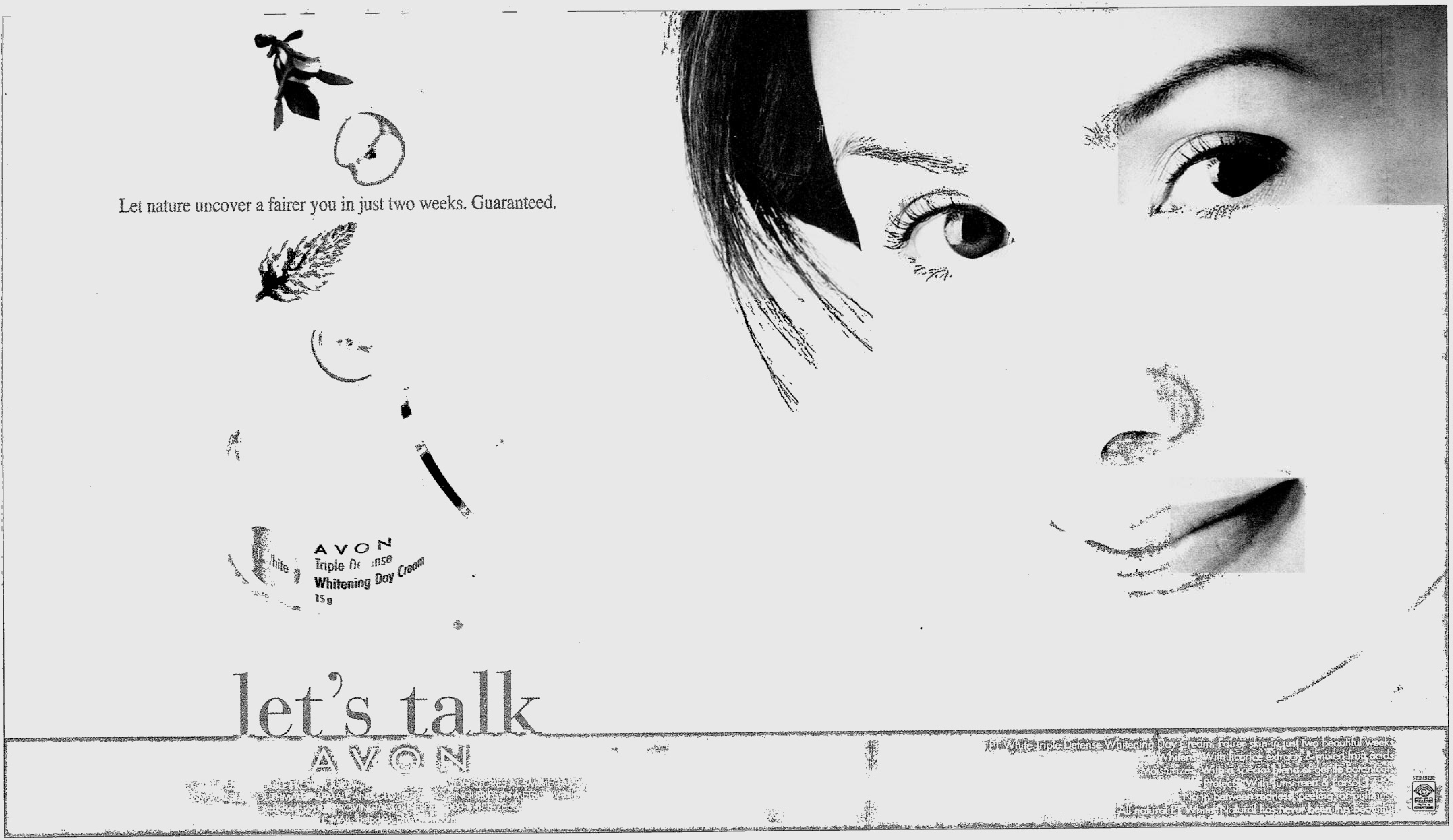

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# Insider's view of 'Hollywood's greatest flop'

**By Noelani Torre**

YOU won't find "Heaven's Gate" in your local neighborhood video shop, or even in the bigger establishments, though we believe you can get a copy through the net. This production was, according to the New York Times' Irwin Winkler, the "notorious film" that "altered Hollywood irrevocably."

## Good reason

"Heaven's Gate" is also known as "Hollywood's greatest flop," and with good reason. It not only failed to earn box-office points, but also caused the downfall of one of Hollywood's biggest and greatest studios, United Artists.

How and why this came about is revealed in Steven Bach's "Final Cut: Dreams and Disasters in the Making of 'Heaven's Gate" (Plume). Bach, who was senior vice president and head of production when the movie was being filmed, gives us a clear and fascinating insider's view on the making of a catastrophe, and on the inner workings of the convoluted world of show business.

"Final Cut" is a gripping personal account of the events that led to UA's destruction, and is made even more compelling by its author's admirable sense of objectivity. There is no doubt that Bach was highly affected by those history-shaping events (he was eventually sacked), but he struggles to be fair throughout the book, unflinchingly criticizing even his own actions.

## Battlefields

In his foreword, he wrote: "'Heaven's Gate' was a movie about a war and was one itself, it had many battlefields . . . More than a little havoc was wreaked, and more than a little rubble was left. Falling debris from the collapse of a once-great company dazed participants and onlookers alike . . .

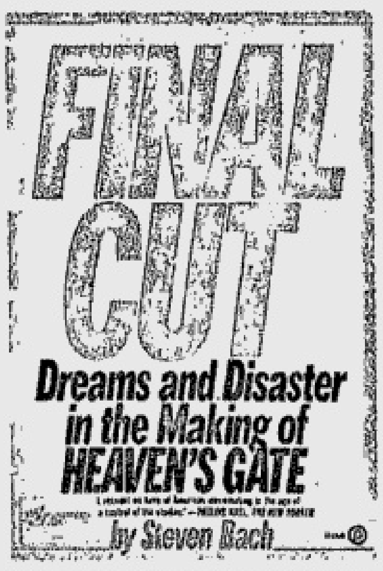
"As both participant and witness to the nonsense, I do not shrink from the admission that I lobbed the occasional grenade into the chaos, or participated in skirmishes that did nothing to improve conditions in the theater of war."

It would be simplistic to say that it was solely the failure of "Heaven's Gate" that caused UA's ruin, though it did contribute a lot to it. There were other factors as well that Bach acknowledges and discusses. Among these were the mass resignation of UA's top executives led by Arthur Krim and Walter Benjamin ("It was unthinkable, unprecedented, unimaginable: Arthur Krim *was* United Artists!").

Krim, Benjamin and company had resigned because they felt that parent company Transmerica Corp. was doing nothing for UA. This abandonment and the executives' immediate establishment of a new company, Orion, shook UA and diminished people's trust in the company.

"Heaven's Gate" was also a film

INSIDER'S/ D5



BACH'S book is so objective that it unflinchingly criticizes even his own actions.

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TWO FOR THE SHOW

# Vina scores big

**By Mary Ann Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo**

JUST when everyone thought that Vina Morales' career was winding down, she recently came up with a courageous and wonderful concert act that pushed her into the league of the country's major concert artists.

She had a huge and responsive crowd that night, and it gamely sang with her when she dished out her signature hits.

We loved Vina's version of Kylie Minogue's "Can't Get You Out of My Head," her soulful rendition of Five-for-Fighting's "Superman," and her upbeat production number with Martin Nievera, where she was able to make Martin dance!

## Chad marks 10th year

Surviving for 10 years in the dog-eat-dog world of show business is a major achievement. But crooner Chad Borja feels that it's more of a blessing than a feat.

Fresh from a successful two-month stint at Singapore's Metz Club, Chad is having a birthday show tonight at Merk's Bar at the new Greenbelt wing.

Chad won his battle with the Big C a few years ago, and has vowed never to compromise his artistry and to always take good care of his gift of voice and music.

Chad has invested in a sound system business, and he's also launching a new showband, K-10.

## Dante Balboa takes a crack at stardom

Dante Balboa is a ramp model who's completing his graduate studies in film at UP, and is now making his bid as a bold actor in Seiko Films' "Kasiping."

Now in his mid 20s, Balboa strikes us as a go-getter, someone who knows what he wants.

He worked hard to pump up his physique before taking his crack at stardom. Good luck!

## Changes

Who's preventing Dingdong Avanzado from doing a back-to-back concert with Rachel Alejandro? This question was raised when Dingdong's camp kept on changing the level of his participation in a concert that was sup-

VINA/ D5

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# Hollywood serves up early Christmas for fantasy buffs

**By David Germain**

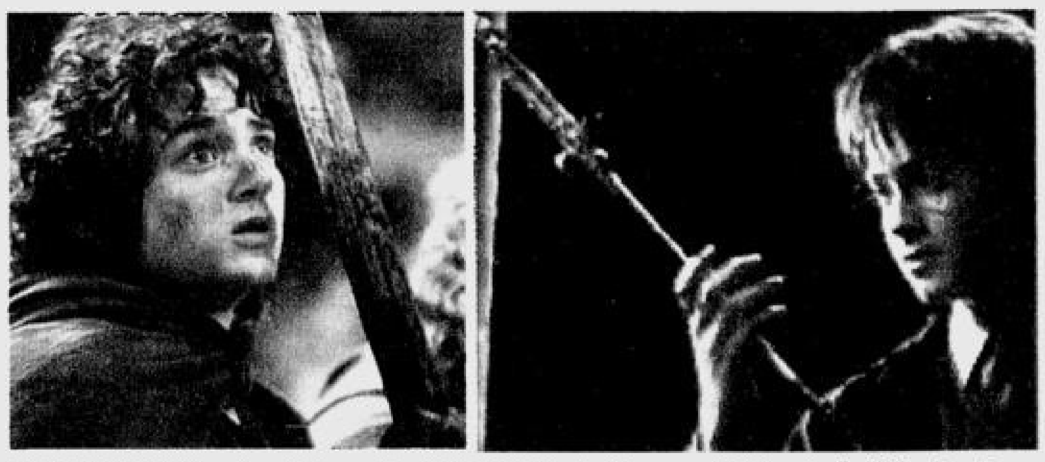
LOS ANGELES—Even Santa makes concessions for the kids of Hogwarts and the little folk of Middle-earth.

## Holiday titans

No studio wants to clash with holiday titans "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers." So Christmas came early to theaters as Tim Allen's "The Santa Clause 2" debuted a day after Halloween, marking an unusually speedy start to Hollywood's holiday season.

The 1994 original, in which Allen played a divorced dad who inherits the Kris Kringle gig af-

HOLLYWOOD/ E2



FRODO (Elijah Wood) and Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) do a lot more fighting in the 'Rings' and 'Potter' sequels.

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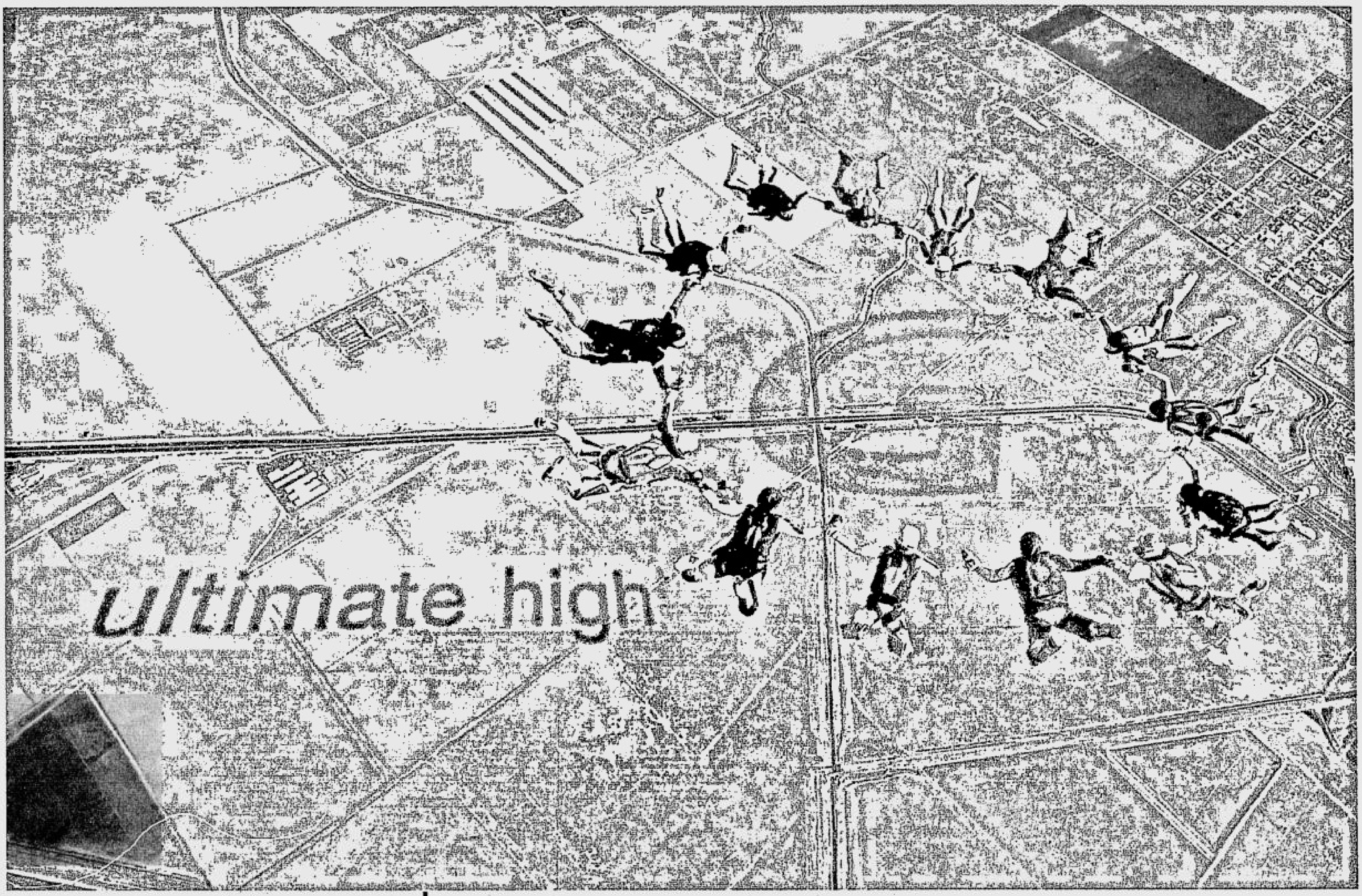

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RINGTONES

| SONG TITLE | KEYWORD | ARTIST |
|---|---|---|
| 8th WONDER | 8thwnder | SUGARHILL GANG |
| ABSOLUTELY | absolutl | NINE DAYS |
| ALL YOU WANTED | youwanted | MICHELLE BRANCH |
| BIG MACHINE | bigmchin | GOO GOO DOLLS |
| BLACK BLACK HEART | blakhart | DAVID USHER |
| DR.FEELGOOD | docflgud | MOTLEY CRUE |
| I NEVER KNEW | inevrknw | GLORIA GAYNOR |
| NICE TO KNOW YOU | nice2knw | INCUBUS |
| ORDINARY DAY | ordinary | VANESSA CARLTON |
| PRE 63 | pre63 | GROOVE ARMADA |
| RIGHT NOW | ritenow | VAN HALEN |
| ROCKFELLA SKANK | rockfela | FATBOY SLIM |
| RUNNING AWAY | runnaway | HOOBASTANK |
| SERVED CHILLED | chilled | GROOVE ARMADA |
| SOMETHING | somethin2 | LASGO |
| SONG2 | blursong | BLUR |
| THE ROCK SHOW | rockshow | BLINK 182 |
| UNBELIEVABLE | unbeliev | EMF |
| UP ALL NIGHT | upallnyt | UNWRITTEN LAW |
| WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS | wechamp | QUEEN |
| WIPE OUT | wipeout | THE SURFARIS |

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# The most romantic movie theme song of all time

By Behn Cervantes

NO doubt, filmdom's most memorable song is the immortal ballad "As Time Goes By." Mention "Casablanca," voted "the most romantic movie of all time" and the song comes to mind. Think of Ingrid Bergman, Humphrey Bogart and Paul Henreid and the music creeps in slowly, the song serving as the appropriate background for the romantic triumvirate. The song is inextricably linked to the 1942 Academy Award-winning film. To this day, it is still cherished by romantic souls who at one time or another have fallen deeply in love.

## Lyrics

The lyrics easily come to mind. The tune is soothing, soulful and seemingly personal, so the words strike a chord in most anyone who hears them. But little do movie fans realize that "Casablanca" musical director Max Steiner disliked the song! In fact, he wanted to replace it with his one of his own compositions.

The song was originally composed by little-known Herman Hupfeld from Montclair, New Jersey for a 1931 Broadway show "Everybody's Welcome." It met with moderate musical acceptance when the public first heard it. After Rudy Vallee made a recording of it, the song disappeared.

But scriptwriters Jules and Philip Epstein insisted on the use of "As Time Goes By" in "Casablanca" which fortunately met the approval of Warner's big boss Hal Wallis. Steiner reluctantly agreed to use the song he found schmaltzy, to be interpreted by a singer he found corny!

## Professional

However, like a good professional he enlarged the theme so that it encompassed the suspense, dramatic and romantic scenes of the 1943 classic.

The melody takes on new nuances with the film's dramatic development. Steiner, after all was a respected musical director and composer who had already won the 1942 Academy Award for film score for his work in "Now, Voyager."

However, the difference between "As Time Goes By" and other memorable musical numbers is the fact that the song is not interpreted by any of the film's stars, like Dorothy (Judy Garland) did in "Wizard of Oz," or Fanny Brice (Barbra Streisand in "Funny Girl," or Sally Bowles (Liza Minnelli) in "Cabaret."

The trio's participation in the song is passive; they are merely listeners. In fact, the character of the East European patriot Lazlo (Paul Henreid) is left in the cold as far as the significance of the song to Ilsa (Bergman) and Rick (Bogart) is concerned. The most anyone does is to order the piano player to "Play it, Sam. Play 'As Time Goes By.'" It is the pianist (Dooley Wilson) who knows what's behind that request. By the way, Max Steiner didn't care much for Dooley and his singing, either.

Critic Arthur Bloom states that the song is vital to the film because it is not merely a piece of music in the movie: "It functions in the plot, it ushers in the past." It ties the present together with the past and explains the palpable conflict between Rick and Ilsa.

INGRID Bergman and Humphrey Bogart in "Casablanca."

## Heroic tale

It practically becomes one of the characters in the heroic tale of love and sacrifice. It is entwined with the relationship of Ilsa, Rick and Lazlo— thus after Ilsa requests Sam toplay it for her, it becomes omnipresent. In the end, when Rick bids Ilsa farewell at the airport, the tone dramatically changes from that of tragic loss to romantic love. Yes, "a kiss is still a kiss and sigh is just sigh," but "woman needs man and man must have his mate, as time goes by."

Few songs have been so well integrated into a film as "As Time Goes By." Steiner enriches and enlarges the original tune to give it cinematic presence—while remaining in the background. It draws us closer to the three, lovers' dilemma and focuses on a sublime love that is destined to have a sad ending.

Rick, although seemingly blasé and weary, sacrifices for the "good of all" in the end. Thus, Rick/Bogart elevates his romance with Ilsa/Bergman to the esteemed plane of true love.

Patriot Lazlo/Henried compassionately understands the pain experienced by Ilsa and the virtue of his rival when he makes the sacrifice. Thus, the characters and music blend into the film's very fiber. Besides, the world will always welcome lovers—as time goes by.

# Hollywood serves up early Christmas for fantasy buffs

From page E1

ter accidentally snuffing Santa, opened two weeks before Thanksgiving.

That time slot this year is occupied by the second adventure of Harry and friends at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Their first adventure, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," was last year's top-grossing movie.

The first "Lord of the Rings" film ran a close second in 2001's box-office chart, so with part two coming just before Christmas, Disney chose to deliver "Santa Clause 2" early rather than risk being buried by the Hogwarts express and the hobbit stampede.

Director Chris Columbus and all major cast members return for the second "Harry Potter," including Daniel Radcliffe as Harry, and Emma Watson and Rupert Grint as chums Hermione and Ron.

## More action

Grint said the new movie "has a lot more action. I prefer it to the first one. It's darker, and it's quite funny, as well."

Adapted from the second of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" best-sellers, the movie chronicles Harry's second year at Hogwarts as he deals with the celebrity of his first-year heroics and a new danger lurking at the school.

Radcliffe said he gets to reveal a more ominous side to Harry.

Speaking of dark sides, director Peter Jackson's middle chapter of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" picks up where the first left off, with the fellowship now fractured, its members striking off on separate journeys in their quest to destroy a ring of absolute evil.

## Confrontation

While Aragorn (Viggo Mortensen) and Gandalf (Ian McKellen) lead a confrontation against evil wizard Saruman (Christopher Lee), hobbits Frodo (Elijah Wood) and Sam (Sean Astin) carry the ring to the foul lands of Mordor, the hangout of ultimate bad guy Sauron.

"Film one is a very linear story of this fellowship of nine characters finding their way through this land. Films two and three, the aperture opens wider, and you see a broader picture of Middle-earth," said Mark Ordesky, an executive producer of the trilogy, whose final installment comes next year.

*(To be concluded)*

# *Repeat performance for 'Nasaan Si Hesus?' Nov. 16*

By Nestor U. Torre

THREE years ago, Mrs. Lourdes "Bing Pimentel, educator, composer and wife of Sen. Nene Pimentel, was struck by the difficult time that Christians were having in being true to their faith in the increasingly more complex modern world, and she decided to compose and produce a musical revue about it.

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## Result

The result, "Nasaan si Hesus (Sa Mundong Makasalanan)?," was endorsed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and taken on a tour of Luzon. A year later, it was performed throughout Northern Mindanao.

It was appreciated by audiences of all ages because its various scenes appealed to different kinds of people. The scene on teenage pregnancy fully engaged the attention of high school and college students, and led to discussions after the show. The sequence on marital infidelity was similarly strong in terms of relevance and audience reaction.

## Other issues

Other issues tackled by the musical revue's different scenes include child labor, street children, drugs, capital punishment, loss of priestly vocation, exploitation of minorities, the cruelty of gossip, and electoral fraud. These are daunting problems Christians contend with, so the audience appreciated the fact that they were dramatized and clarified onstage.

Bing Pimentel's original songs and lyrics went a long way in making the issues clear and involving.

## Dynamic

In addition, the performances of the touring cast of gifted musical-theater talents did a lot to make the production dynamic and entertaining.

"Nassan si Hesus" will be performed again at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Sienna College Auditorium in Taytay, Rizal, The performance is sponsored by the St. Anthony de Padua Parish. For tickets, call Millet Esguerra at 0917-8172158.

Parishes, schools, organizations and offices that want the show staged in their locality are asked to call Nelson at 713-9323 or 0917-9893089. A performance tour of the Visayas has been lined up for early 2003.

The cast of "Nasaan si Hesus?" is made up of talented actors and singers Andy Bais, Rito Asilo, Joel Villaflor, Shiela Asuncion, Arlene Borja, Angeli Flores, Albert Jimenez, Catherine Estabillo, Ray Manalo, Janice Cruz and precocious child performers Nina Araw and Jasmin Flores.

## Big change

As the singer-actors perform the musical review all over the country, they are struck by a big change in the way that audiences now relate to religious presentations like "Nasaan si Hesus": The response is more dynamic, less passive, because the subject matter and style of presentation now come to bear on actual concerns rather than abstract ruminations.

The actors also note an increased interest in matters of "faith in action" on the part of the young people who have seen the show. During the scene on teen pregnancy, when the male character is trying to wriggle his way out of his responsibility, youths in the audience shout to his pregnant girlfriend to "warn" her against his duplicity.

It is active audience involvement like this that makes the cast put up with the difficulties of touring. And it has made them grow, both as artists and persons.

It has also brought them closer together as a touring company of theater artists who work as one to make sure that their show's significant themes and learning points come through loud and clear.

## YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV. 9 - NOV. 15

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [illegible] | 5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan<br>7:00 Arriba, Arriba<br>8:00 Mary d' Potter<br>9:00 FPJ Action Cinema<br>11:00 "F"<br>11:30 Sports Unlimited | 6:00 Fox News<br>11:00 Business and Leisure | 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars<br>7:30 Family Feud<br>8:30 Wow Mali!<br>9:30 Saturday Night *Race Against Time*<br>11:30 Star Trek Voyager | 6:00 Dragon Ball Z<br>6:30 Imbestigador<br>7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap<br>8:30 Kakabakaba<br>9:30 Blockbuster Cinema<br>11:30 Master Showman | 6:00 Hot Ticket<br>6:30 Entertainment Tonite<br>7:00 Largo<br>8:00 7 Days<br>9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Desperate Measures* | 7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?<br>8:00 Star For A Night<br>9:00 Viva Box Office<br>11:00 Kagat ng Dilim | 6:00 Travel Time<br>6:30 The Beast Machines<br>7:00 Game Plan<br>7:30 7th Heaven<br>8:30 Boston Public<br>9:30 Studio 23 Presents<br>11:30 Real Deal | 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special<br>9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan<br>9:30 Armor of God<br>10:00 Oh Tokyo<br>11:00 Pinoy Wrestling | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 E! Coming Attractions<br>7:00 L'Oreal Color Trophy Special<br>8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Patricia Hearst*<br>10:00 David Letterman<br>11:00 E! News Weekend |
| [illegible] | 5:30 Sharon<br>7:00 Wansapanataym<br>8:30 Home Along Da Riles<br>9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas<br>11:30 Off The Record<br>12:00 The Weekend News | 8:00 The Working President<br>9:00 Fox News<br>11:00 Unlimited Driving | 6:00 Zorro<br>6:30 Guylerd<br>7:00 Price Is Right<br>8:00 Sing-Galing<br>9:00 The Big Night *Ms Teen Philippines 2002*<br>11:00 Speed | 5:30 Partners Mel & Jay<br>7:00 KI<br>8:30 Daddy Di Do Du<br>9:30 Sunday Night Box Office<br>11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents | 6:00 Entertainment This Weekend<br>7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not<br>8:00 Match TV<br>9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Mad About Madz*<br>11:00 Road Trip | 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?<br>9:00 Sinemaks<br>11:00 Viva's Hot Hits | 6:00 Invasion America<br>6:30 Digital Tour<br>7:00 Exposed<br>8:00 Yes Dear<br>8:30 Spin City<br>9:00 Will & Grace<br>9:30 The West Wing<br>10:30 Scariest Places on Earth<br>11:30 News Central | 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series<br>8:00 Oh Tokyo<br>9:00 Sunday Night movies | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 E! Coming Attractions<br>7:00 E! Original Special<br>8:00 Rank *25 Sexiest Women In Entertainment*<br>9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Tim Allen*<br>10:00 Celebrity (Fox)*Betty Grable: Behind Pin Up* |
| [illegible] | 6:00 TV Patrol<br>6:30 Game K N B?<br>7:00 Bituin<br>7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay<br>8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka<br>8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan<br>9:00 Alias<br>10:30 Night Visions<br>11:00 Headlines | 6:00 Fox News<br>8:00 TeleDyaryo<br>10:00 Fox News | 6:00 Balitang-Balita<br>6:30 F<br>7:00 Mahha Go Go Go<br>7:30 Kool on Kam<br>8:30 Bugs<br>9:30 Trabaho Lang<br>10:00 The Big News<br>10:30 Two | 6:00 Frontpage<br>6:30 Habang Kapiling Ka<br>7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw<br>7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga<br>8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka<br>8:30 Ready Txt Go<br>9:00 GMA's Best<br>10:30 Saksi<br>11:00 Probe Team | 5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita<br>6:00 Sin Ti<br>6:30 Real TV<br>7:00 Simpsons<br>8:00 Jag<br>9:00 24<br>10:00 Newswatch Now<br>10:30 Sex & the City | 6:00 Carita de Angel<br>7:00 Crayon Shin Chan<br>8:00 Kurochan<br>9:00 The Weakest Link<br>10:00 Diwa<br>11:00 IBC News | 6:00 The Three Stooges<br>6:30 Starship Troopers<br>7:00 Batman Beyond<br>7:30 Samurai X<br>8:00 Bully<br>9:00 Charmed<br>10:00 News Central<br>10:30 Oprah | 6:30 Q Showcase<br>7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan<br>8:00 Q Showcase<br>9:00 Ang Dating Daan | 6:00 CBS Evening News<br>6:30 E! News Live<br>7:00 *The Games*<br>8:00 E! True Hollywood Story<br>9:00 E! News Live<br>9:30 FYE<br>10:00 Wild On *Sunshine State* |
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# 'Rocky Horror Picture Show' opens on Nov. 15

By Gloria P. Sicam

DON'T ask me to explain what "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (from Nov. 15 to Dec. 18 at the RCBC Theater in Makati) is all about. Because even if I could find the words, they wouldn't make sense. Believe me, I tried. There is none. This play is just plain fun.

MILLADO (center) framed by (clockwise from left) Pangan, Escalante and Fegi.

## Engaged couple

The basic story: a newly engaged couple, Brad (Joel Trinidad/Noel Rayos) and Janet (Cathy Azanza) are on their way to see a certain Dr. Scott (Aiza Seguerra/Chari Arespacochaga) one rainy night. They get a flat tire, so they ask for help at a nearby castle. They meet transvestite /mad scientist Frank n Furter (Calvin Millado), his servants Riff Raff (Jett Pangan), Magenta (Anna Fegi), and Columbia (Bituin Escalante), and Rocky (Jay Espano), Frank's creation.

You might wonder, if this play is so meaningless, why should I watch it? Well, for five good reasons:

1. Calvin Millado in drag. Who hasn't seen his pictures and said, "*What* is that?" Indeed, that is the question. They had to have his heels custom made, and they are *huge*.

Let's face it—Calvin doesn't make a very attractive woman. But I don't think the point was to make him beautiful. He's a guy in woman's clothing!

And Calvin is scarily good as a transvestite. He has let go and stopped laughing at himself and has given life to Frank n Furter, a character who is *so* far from who he is.

## Good voices

2. Jett Pangan, Anna Fegi and Bituin Escalante's voices all in the same play. Jett "Rock Icon" Pangan blows me away with the heights his voice can reach. *And* he's got great comic timing. Anna and Bito are finally in the same play—and their voices are just jaw-dropping.

3. Aiza Seguerra on stage. I have to admit, I'm a bit star struck when it comes to working with Aiza. I remember seeing her as a four-year-old on "Eat Bulaga," and now I'm actually sharing the stage with her.

She's quite a revelation. She doesn't hold back when she performs—and during the breaks, she plays her guitar and we get treated to Aiza—Unplugged.

4. The music is so much fun to sing and listen to. It's rock, but it isn't screaming, what-the-heck-are-they-saying, heavy-metal rock. There's a bit of gospel choir singing, a bit of Beatles... I'm sure you'll leave the theater humming a tune or two.

5. The costumes by Rajo Laurel are funky. It's fishnet stockings galore. Mylene Dizon's got baby bottle nipples on her corset. There's gold trunks on Rocky (played by Jay Espano).

## Phantoms

For me, the hardest thing about doing this play is trying not to laugh. Just ask my fellow Phantoms, Nyoy Vollante, Raul Montesa, Jeremy Aguado, MaiMai Hernandez and Mylene Dizon. It's tough, being onstage, seeing Calvin skip across it, and not laugh. And he isn't even in costume yet!

When you watch this play, just remember to keep an open mind and enjoy. Just go in and have a good time. And do what Roxy tells you to do.

Don't worry about not knowing who she is. When you get there, Roxy will introduce herself to you and take you through the "Rocky Horror Picture Show." And you just gotta let her. Call 892-7078.

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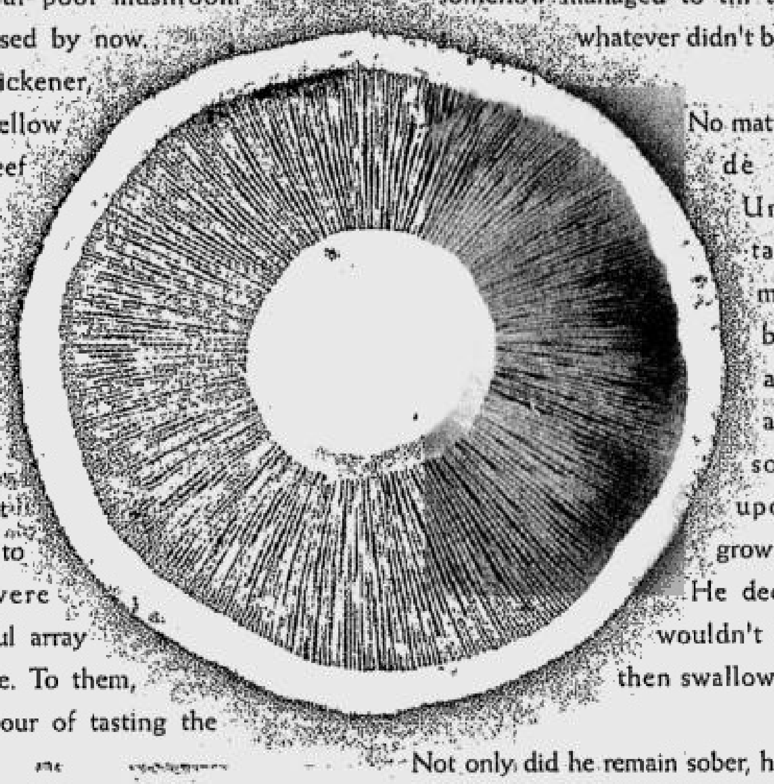
Tall tales from a short mushroom.



If names mattered, our poor mushroom would be pretty confused by now. It's been called the sickener, dead man's fingers, yellow brain, jelly tongue, beef tongue, candle snuff. Anything but a fungus.

Oh, but the stories it could tell! There was a Pharaoh who declared that all mushrooms discovered in Egypt automatically belonged to him. His advisers were amazed at the colourful array brought into the palace. To them, Pharaoh gave the honour of tasting the royal banquet.

The English believed that mushrooms should only be gathered under a full moon. The adventurous few who pooh-poohed this 'superstition' dreamt of dark forests, fairy queens, goat men and other horned fiends. Come to think of it, Shakespeare had a lot of strange creatures in his writings.

Across the Channel, French Intelligence concluded that it was a good idea to export mushrooms to their archenemy, the English. Braving the recesses of old limestone caves (and the occasional bat guano), they somehow managed to till the soil and harvest whatever didn't bite them.

No matter. The Champignon de Paris was born. Unexpectedly, this tasty brown button mushroom quickly became a firm favourite among noblemen and commoners. Until somebody stumbled upon a white clump growing with the browns. He decided that a nibble wouldn't hurt and there and then swallowed the albino.

Not only did he remain sober, he also ventured that it would make delicious soup. The folks at Campbell's agreed. Descendants from the same white variety have since become part of our famous mushroom soup. Every bowl contains protein, fibre and generous helpings of wholesome goodness. To the delight of soup lovers everywhere. We think it's the next best thing since, well, sliced mushrooms.

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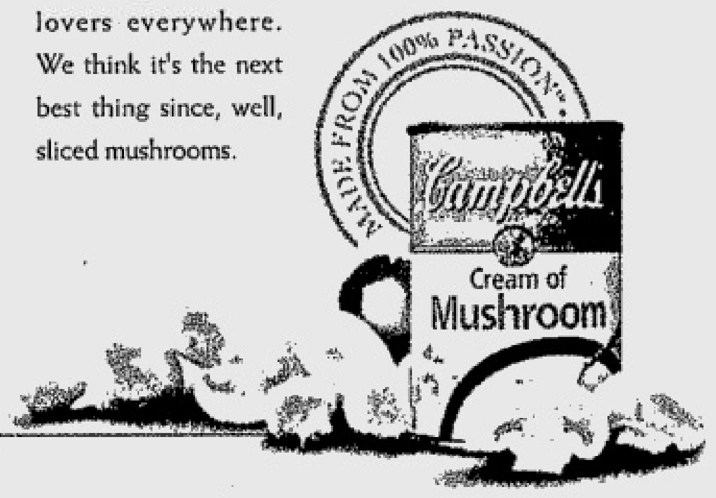

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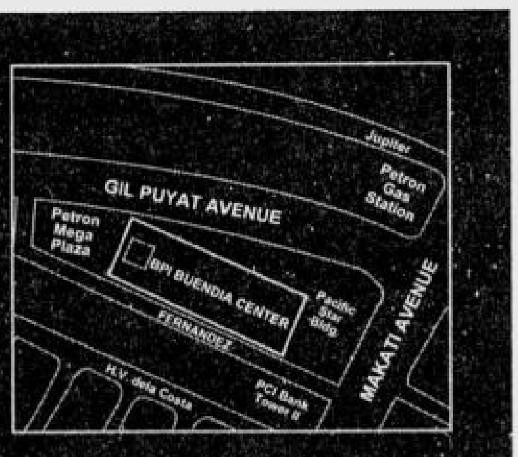

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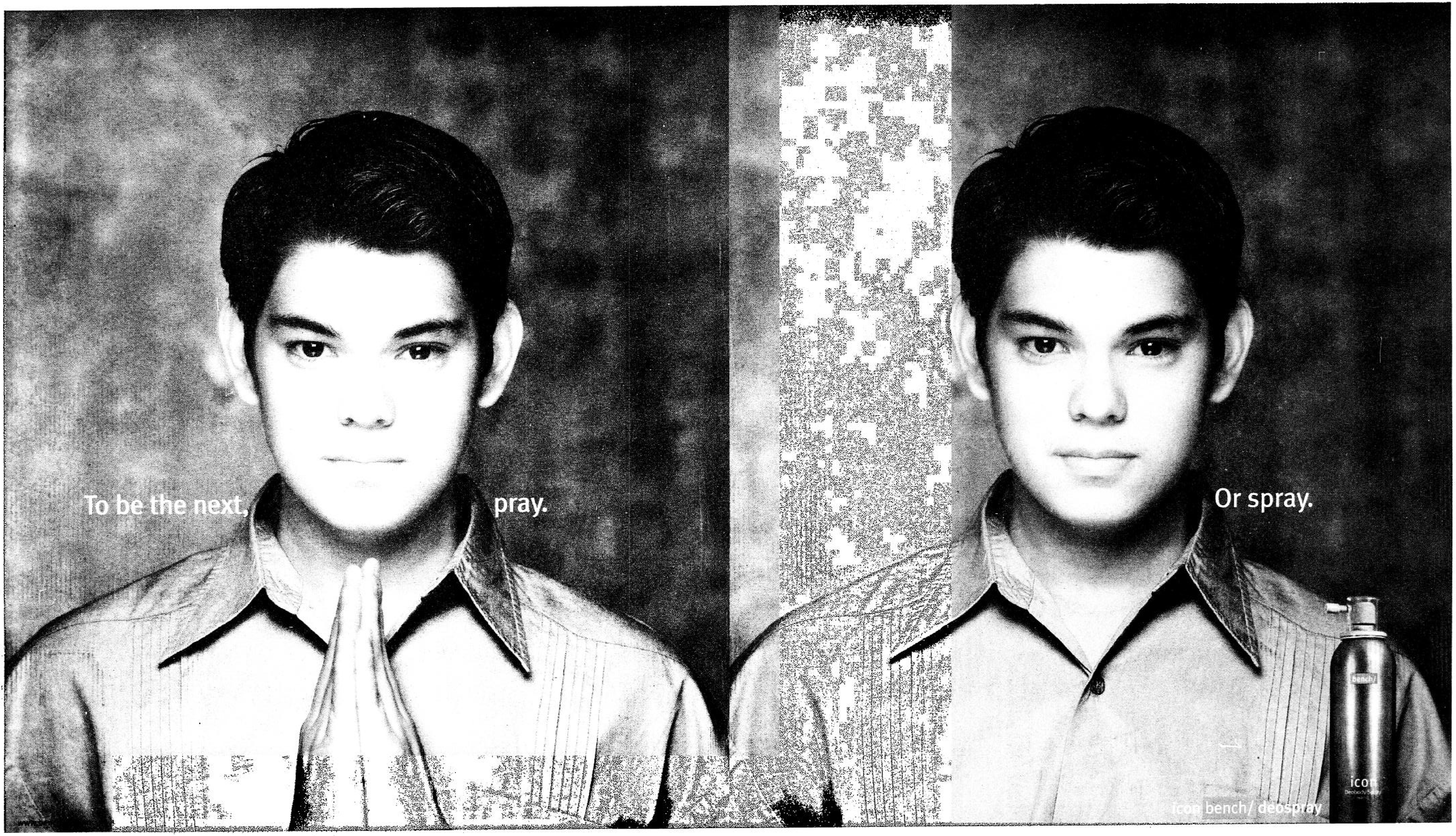
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SATURDAY*Special*

# Documentary looks at lives of 007's 'Bond Girls'

**By Bob Tourtellotte**

LOS ANGELES—Ever wonder what happened to Honey Ryder, Holly Goodhead and the never-to-be-forgotten Pussy Galore from 1964 James Bond movie classic, "Goldfinger?" This month, film studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer unleashes the 20th James Bond movie, "Die Another Day" for movie fans around the world, and with that comes a new "Bond Girl," Halle Berry.

## Bond buffs

But for Bond buffs wanting to know where the women of past films landed after tangling—or becoming entangled—with 007, Mayam d'Abo of 1987's "The Living Daylights" has created "Bond Girls Are Forever," a documentary that will debut on AMC cable TV network on Wednesday at 8 p.m. EST/PST and then be repeated several times.

The new Bond film debuts on Nov. 22 with all the the gadgets, fast cars and shaken martinis audiences have come to expect. But the girls are always a little bit different, and over 40 years of Bond flicks have changed as times have changed.

"The roles are bigger and more challenging. There is more of an edge to them, but they have lost some of the fun . . . Today, you couldn't get away with a name like Pussy Galore," d'Abo said. That's probably true.

## Glamour

Oscar winner Berry promises to bring glamour, brains and sophistication to her role of Jinx, while still kicking butt with martial arts and gun handling skills that make Bond (Pierce Brosnan) a little bit shaken, like his favorite drink.

It wasn't always that way. Ursula Andress emerged from the warm blue Caribbean waters onto a sandy beach in a scandalously low two-piece bikini in 1962's "Dr. No," and became Honey Rider, the original Bond Girl.

At first, Rider seemed to have an independent streak that fit the fiery 1960s. She even pulled a knife on 007, but was rather easily disarmed and, in the end, saved from villains by then 007, Sean Connery.

Over the years, Bond Girls have been both victims and villains. By the 1990s, d'Abo believes, Bond Girls finally became equals of 007, illustrated by the martial arts style of Michelle Yeoh as Wai Lin in 1997's "Tomorrow Never Dies." Dame Judi Dench, playing spy chief "M" starting in 1995's "GoldenEye," has become Bond's boss.

## Two movies

Andress appears in d'Abo's documentary as do Berry, Yeoh, Honor Blackman, the aforementioned Ms Galore; Lois Chiles, Dr. Holly Goodhead of 1979's "Moonraker;" and Maud Adams, the only woman to be a Bond Girl in two movies, 1974's "The Man with the Golden Gun" and 1983's "Octopussy." Adams, 57, describes being a Bond Girl as a sort of double-edged sword that brings notoriety, but also can overshadow a career if the actress allows that to happen.

"The myth that Bond Girls are one-shot actresses is really just a myth," said Adams, noting she's made over 25 other feature films in a career that has spanned over 30 years.

MICHELLE Yeoh was Wai Lin in 1997's "Tomorrow Never Dies."

## More notoriety

Adams said what has surprised her is the fact that the Bond movies seem to gain more notoriety each time a new film hits theaters. She said she still gets fan mail from kids around the world who see the video or DVD of her past Bond movies, and think she's still that same woman.

DOCUMENTARY/ F5

URSULA Andress played Honey Rider in 1962's "Dr. No."

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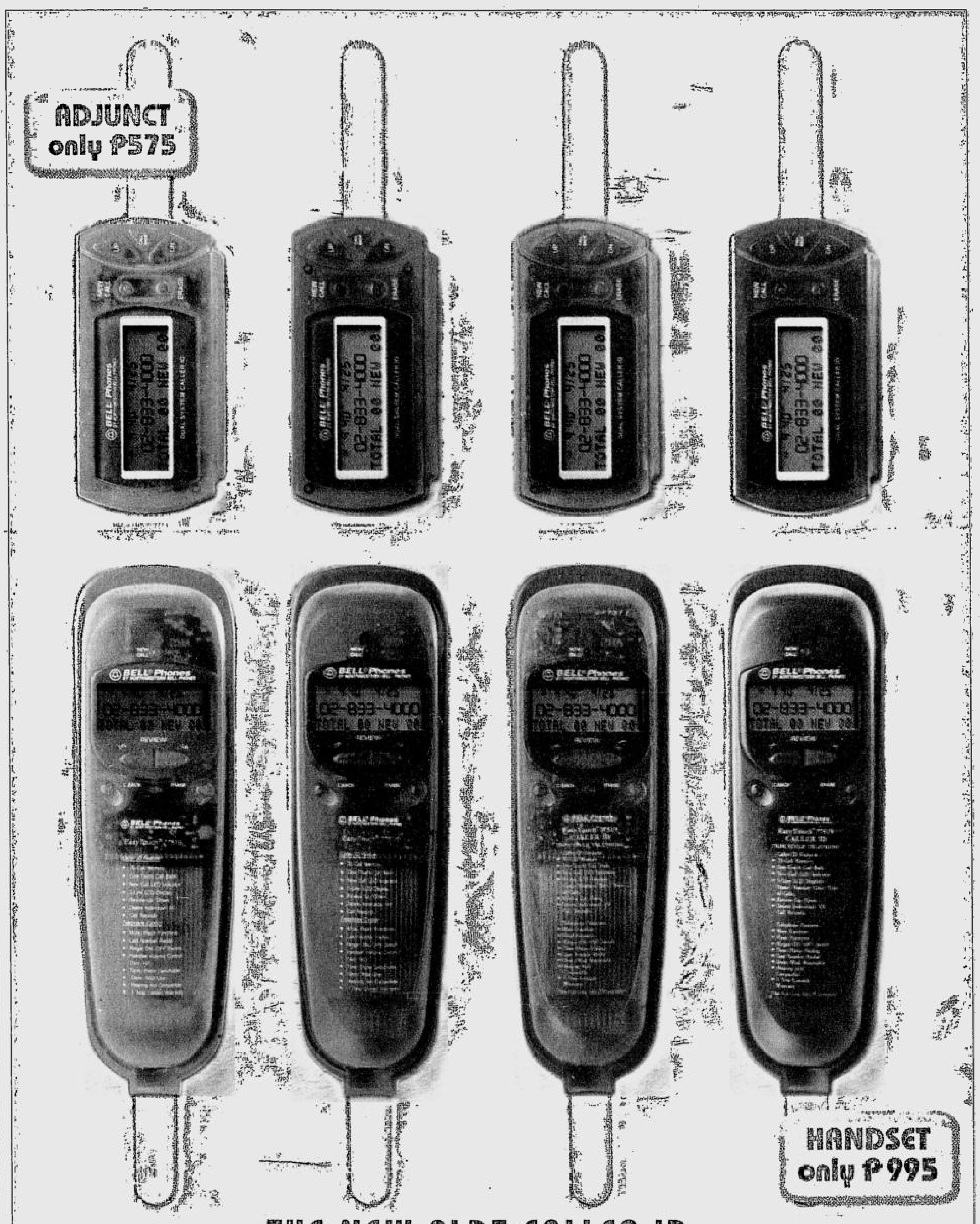

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# Channel 7's 'Habang Kapiling Ka' experiences birth pains—literally

**By Nestor U. Torre**

CHANNEL 7's weeknight soap, "Habang Kapiling Ka," literally experienced birth pains on its premiere telecast last Monday. It began with the simultaneous births of babies born to two different women—Snooky Serna's character on the one hand, and the sister of Alma Moreno's character on the other.

## Excessive

Two women in painful labor and screaming for all they were worth made for a decidedly loud opening! It quickly became excessive, and this viewer soon felt enervated.

The outcome was, Snooky's baby was stillborn—*and* Alma's sister died during childbirth. How convenient: Alma switched the babies around, so the poor, dead woman's child found a happy home in wealthy Snooky's mansion!

However, Snooky still had another tragedy to bear: her husband (Tonton Gutierrez) died in a plane crash—which she didn't know was effected by his "best friend" (Albert Martinez), who had secret evil designs on Tonton's hacienda—and wife.

## Prisoner

But even Albert doesn't know that Tonton survived the crash but has been kept prisoner by a young woman who practices the black arts (!). Only after seven long years does he regain the use of his legs, and starts on the long journey to go back to Snooky.

SERNA. Natural and affecting performance.

Unfortunately, she's finally agreed to marry Albert, who has usurped all of Tonton's properties and now has her as the biggest jewel on his avaricious crown. But trouble looms because he's been treating the hacienda workers cruelly.—*Abangan!*

## Eventful

From the first two telecasts of the new sitcom, we can see that the people behind the production are willing to go out on a limb just to make the show eventful. Thus, the multiple births, the voodoo girl, Tonton coming back from the "grave," etc.

While we understand that TV soaps have to be "operatic" in its flourishes, some of these florid touches are too far-out to be believed.

Worse, they encourage some members of the cast to do their worst in the melodrama and villain departments. In this instance, Albert Martinez is old-school evil-villainous. His idea of interesting characterization is to meditatively sniff a long cigar. The actress playing Tonton's voodoo girl is also over-the-top.

The child actresses are too smartly loquacious. And Tonton's beard after his seven years in "captivity" is too patently fake. Let's hope he "shaves" in the very next episode, so the beard ceases to offend viewers.

## Plus side

On the plus side, the new soap benefits from Snooky Serna's natural and affecting performance as the woman who is forced to marry her beloved husband's "killer." Since she's acting in a soap, she does lay it on thick at times, but always from a credible core.

How will this new TV soap opera's conflicts sort themselves out? What will happen when Tonton finally resurfaces? How will the children relate to each other when they get to be teens and young adults? The plot thickens!

Let's hope that, with less livid story developments and trite characterizations, it doesn't curdle.

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# Turning 17

**FACE TO FACE**

*Inday Badiday*

DEAR Clara,

Last Wednesday, you turned 17. I don't know if you noticed because I was endlessly chirping away, but I was really feeling a little "poignant" that day. I couldn't help but think of how swiftly time has flown. It doesn't seem like a long time ago when I decided to have you.

## Too mature

At the time, there were some people who frowned at the idea of my having a child once more. They thought I was too mature and too career-oriented to be bothered again by such a vexing proposition as motherhood. And they also believed my relationship with your dad wasn't strong enough to sustain a family.

Well, they were a little bit right about the latter, but dead wrong about the former. For, despite everything that happened between me and your dad, I gave you all the mothering I could muster, and you are turning out rather well, aren't you?

Clara, as the events of the past 17 years march before my eyes in a merry procession of colorful memories, I'd like to share with you some thoughts that lingered in my mind as I pondered on your being 17. They say 16 is sweet, and 18 is delicious—which means you're somewhere in between.

I think that's the reason why 17 is the most confusing age—you ooze with confidence and self-assurance one moment, but you melt into a blob of insecurity and indecision the next.

## Pillar of strength

Or, a fraction of a minute ago, you're a pillar of strength, but now, you can hardly rise from the ruins caused by your self-perceived weakness and debilitating feelings of unworthiness.

Yesterday, you were ready to take on the whole, wide world but, today, you're full of questions like: Am I good enough? Beautiful enough? Strong enough? Intelligent enough? Witty enough?—Am I *enough,* at all?

And your mind and heart are forever at odds, whether the answer to all those all-too-important questions is a resounding yes, or a desperate no.

Clara, I know. I've been 17 once. One moment, I wanted to be the center of attention, for everybody to notice me—my dress, my hair, my shoes, my nail polish, my new bra. But, the next moment, I wanted to blend with the wall, or for everybody to just go away.

Indeed, 17 is a tough time to go through, my dear child. It is some kind of halfway home. I think, it is the time when God is busiest in the work of transforming you from the child you are to the person He wants you to become. As He hammers away, putting all your nuts and bolts together, chiseling something here and sandpapering something there—you go through the entire process of pain and anxiety and all sorts of emotional upheavals.

## Normal

When all this is happening, cheer up, precious one. It only means that you are normal. And God loves you.

But, beware. Because the length of time needed for this process to be completed is largely determined by how cooperative you are with what God is doing with you. If you try to oppose it, it will only be harder for you.

Clara, it has taken me almost a lifetime to realize this. Whenever I look back, I see the graveyard of my puny attempts to out-god God in my life. These days, I often catch myself bemused: Had I known at 17 what I do now, I'd have avoided all the detours that proved to be the longer, more difficult routes, but which I thought were the better alternatives at the time I chose to take them.

If I may use a more vivid metaphor, 17 is some kind of pupa stage—you're no longer the soft and fragile caterpillar but not yet the full-grown butterfly with its burst of color and joy, and capacity to fly.

Take note, Clara, that both the caterpillar and the butterfly are mobile but the pupa is still precariously perched on a branch, seemingly vulnerable to the onslaught of wind and rain but protected by its tough and sturdy covering.

Your covering is your family, the friendships you've built, the inner strengths you need to discover within you, and the faith that you've found in Jesus.

## Warmth

Your family: There may be times when you just can't make heads or tails of our family, but know beyond any shadow of doubt that we shall always and forever be here for you. Whenever you're cold, there's warmth here. Whenever you're weak, there's a nest for you to rest and replenish your strength.

Whenever you're distraught and distressed, there's chicken soup for your soul. And whenever the going gets tough for your 17-year-old heart, there's always a houseful of love to be found here.

Your friends: I'm glad to see that you have a lot—although, actually, you only need a few. Or just one if she is really a friend.

But the key to friendship is really not in having friends but in being one.

Friendship is such an amazing thing. The more you give it away, the more it comes back to you. You plant it in the hearts of others, but it grows in yours. When harvest time comes, you don't go to your neighbors' backyard, because the fruits are for you to pick right there inside you.

Your inner strengths: Yes, Clara, you have them because God gave them to you since the beginning of time. Find them. Develop them. Use them.

If you don't find them, you will lose them. If you don't develop them, they will atrophy. And if you don't use them, you shall go through life believing you're the failure God never intended you to be.

## Blessed

Which brings us to your faith: I've said it before and I'll say it again, Clara—You are blessed for knowing Jesus very early in your life. You have your dad to thank for that, and I'm eternally grateful to him for introducing both of us to God, whom we both thought we knew but didn't really see then in our life. Today, we see the magnificence of God all the time. Not that it wasn't there before, but we didn't yet have the sensitivity to His presence.

Seventeen. Next year, you'll be 18. And then 19. But do you know that it's entirely possible for people to be 17 for the rest of their lives—stuck in the limbo of their own making? These are the people who never learn. Because of that, they never grow. Thus, they shall never be able to claim the fullness of God's glorious plan for them.

These are the people who are forever seeking the meaning of life but don't have the capacity to recognize it even if it stares them in the face. They are those who are always in a hurry to get to where they want to be, without really knowing where that is.

## Boyfriend

It is quite easy to spot them. They eternally pray to God to give them a boyfriend, a car, a better job, a bigger house. But then, they lose their husband—not that he wasn't good, but no husband could ever be good enough for them.

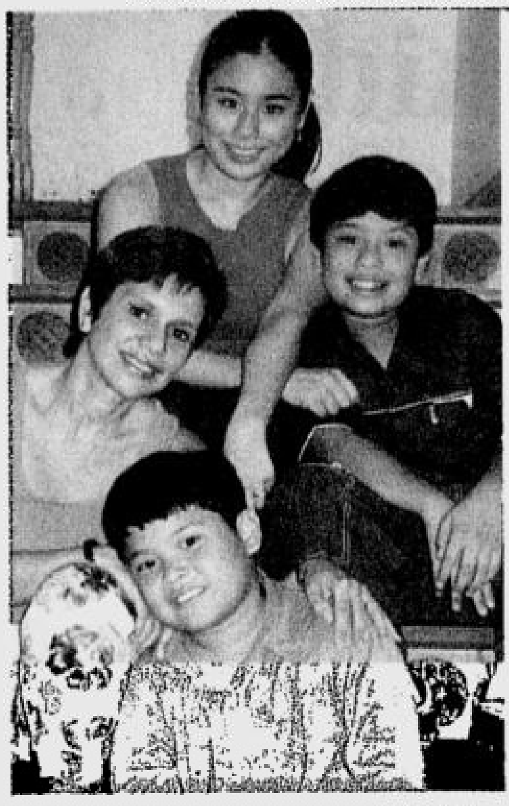
They are never content with their career—not because their job doesn't pay enough, but because they measure their level of achievement by the speed with which they climb up the corporate ladder.

They either transfer from one house to another with dizzying regularity, or their house is in a perpetual process of renovation—not because their house is not beautiful but because they really don't know what they want.

Worse, they don't see the value of a heartfelt handshake, a sincere smile, walking barefoot on the beach during sunset. They shall remain 17 forever even if they live to be a hundred years. They are Peter Pans who age but never grow up.

Ah, speaking of Peter Pan and growing old, do you now know, Clara, why for the longest time I never revealed my real age?

*For your insights and comments: <badids2000@yahoo.com>*



**ANN Puno with children (from top) Renee, Yago and Luis.**

# Baking wiz is a devoted mother

**STREET SMART**

*Mandy Navasero*

THE SOLIDARITY of the close-knit Filipino family is often regarded as one of the admirable qualities of our culture.

## Pressures

Recently, however, the Filipino family has been exposed to pressures that threaten to undermine the very foundations of our society. Thus, it is refreshing to meet individuals who, even in these trying times, focus on value formation at home.

Ann Puno is a busy housewife with three adorable children—Renee, Yago and Luis. Despite an active schedule, she and her husband, lawyer Rene Puno, have managed to raise children who are God-fearing and accomplished in their own right.

Renee is a consistent honor student and outstanding badminton player. Yago is also an honor student and is a member of the Eucharistic Server's Society in his school. Luis, the youngest in the family, is an honor student like his siblings, and is a member of his school's baseball varsity team.

## Security

How can parents raise such good kids? "Children need a firm sense of security nurtured by constancy, and bolstered by our physical presence. It is not uncommon for me and my husband to abruptly change our own plans to accommodate one of our children's activities."

Ann also makes an effort to build up the children's self-esteem by valuing their opinions. "Even the appropriate disciplinary action for an erring child is a consensus between the child and the parent," Ann explains.

"For instance, we ask our children if they think they deserve to be grounded as punishment for being particularly unruly. While my husband and I have the final word, we pay attention to what our children want to say."

## God-centered

And children should be taught to be God-centered. "When you teach your children to be accountable to God, they set their own standards of propriety even when you are not around to discipline them."

Ann is particularly busy now because of the great demand for her delicious home-baked goodies, which are staple fare for the traditional Christmas day and New Year's Eve feasts.

Ann's specialties include freshly baked cakes like Pistachio, Prune, Walnut, Kahlua Toffee, Vanilla, Brandy and Carrot. This Christmas, Ann has added another specialty, the mouth-watering Almond Coffee Cake.

She also prepares excellent dulong in Olive Oil, quesong puti in herbs and spices, chicken relleno and callos.

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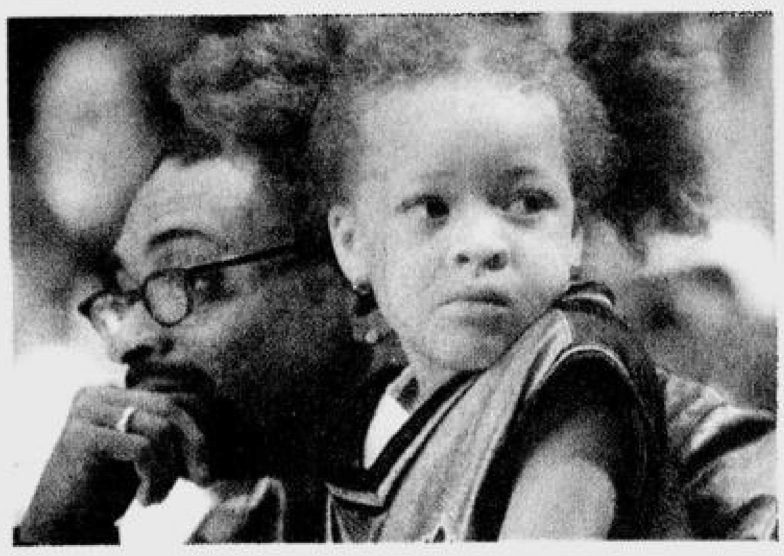
# More celebrities write books for kids

By Samantha Critchell



FILMMAKER Spike Lee, shown here with his daughter, co-wrote a children's book, "Please, Baby, Please," with his wife, Tonya. AP

CURTIS. With five books out, she's become a full-fledged children's author.

NEW YORK—Jerry Seinfeld, John Lithgow, Jamie Lee Curtis, Julie Andrews, Marlee Matlin and Spike Lee are bringing boldface names to a world long dominated by unknowns: the children's book industry in the United States.

## New marquee

It is a trend that at least on the surface makes sense. A publisher pairs up with a celebrity who is willing to do interviews and attend book signings; in return, the star conquers a new marquee, the cover of a kid's book.

Similar formulas have worked for beauty, diet and entertaining books.

However, as most parents know, children can be finicky. They also aren't necessarily impressed by movie stars who aren't of the animated variety.

"Celebrity books sometimes are being sold more to the parents, the gatekeepers of book purchases," says David Gale, editorial director of Simon & Schuster's Books for Young Readers division. Still, he adds, successful children's books eventually have to appeal to kids because youngsters make very clear their likes and dislikes—and it is children who build up a base for an author's future books.

## Bigger risk

A celebrity children's book is a bigger risk for a publisher than a book written by any other first-time author, Gale says.

"When (a book) comes from a celebrity, it actually sends up a red flag," he says. "Other authors resent it because the celebrities get press attention. Stores can be reluctant. But even if I'm wary, if it's a good book, I want it.

"You can make a better return because you'll be on the 'Today' show but it costs more because you pay more for the book and the travel expenses are higher."

Lithgow's books—there have been three, including the new "Micawber" (Simon & Schuster)—owe their popularity to the winning combination of snappy and witty rhythmic lines, bright illustrations by C.F. Payne and Lithgow's own commitment to his young fans. He also performs for his readers at children's concerts across the country.

Unlike other children's books that might court customers with colorful cover art and enchanting drawings, the celebrities are the key to promoting their books.

Diane Mangan, children's category director for Borders Books and Music stores, names Lithgow and Curtis as two celebrities who have proven themselves as children's book authors. She says the quality of their books is good, they make good publicity plans and are respected by the close-knit circle of children's authors. Mangan predicts that Curtis' "I'm Gonna Like Me: Letting Off a Little Self-Esteem" (Joanna Cotler Books) will be the best-selling picture book at Borders this fall.

## Other big titles

Other big titles backed by big names are "Halloween" (Little, Brown), by Seinfeld; "Please, Baby, Please" (Simon & Schuster), by Lee and his wife, Tonya Lewis Lee; and "Dumpy and the Big Storm" (Hyperion), by Andrews who uses her full married name of Julie Andrews Edwards on the series of Dumpy the Dump Truck books she writes with Emma Walton Hamilton.

Rappers LL Cool J and Doug E. Fresh have contributed stories to Scholastic's Kip Kid Hop series that feature positive messages, and Kenny Rogers worked with screenwriter Donald Davenport on "Christmas in Canaan" (HarperCollins).

Some best-selling adult authors are trying their hand at children's books as well, including Michael Chabon, Carl Hiaasen and Toni Morrison, who writes with her son, Slade. Hiaasen's book, "Hoot" (Knopf Books for Young Readers) and Chabon's "Summerland" (Miramax/Hyperion Books for Children) are both intended for youngsters 9-12; Morrison, who has written for children in the past, plans her "The Book of Mean People" (Hyperion Books for Children) for the 4-8 age group.

The industry also has its own "stars," such as Laura Numeroff, but they usually aren't a part of a publisher's splashy publicity campaign and they typically aren't household names, Mangan says.

## Easily recognized

And of those authors who have achieved name recognition—such as Judy Blume, Maurice Sendak and Shel Silverstein—how many people even know what they look like? Authors like Curtis and Lithgow, however, are easily recognized.

Curtis says that for a while she felt like an "interloper." But with five books out, she's become a full-fledged children's author. *AP*

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# *Halina, Pyar, Barbara star in 'Sex Files'*

By Edmund L. Sicam

TRIPLE TREAT. From left, Barbara Milano, Halina Perez and Pyar Mirasol.

IF a bold movie offers three sexy stars in one sitting, does that mean the audience will have thrice the fun watching it? Yes, say Barbara Milano, Pyar Mirasol and Halina Perez who star in "Sex Files," where they are featured in three separate stories. One thing going for the movie is the cinematography of Romy Vitug. Direction is by Joven Tan.

## Daring

Of the three, Barbara Milano is the most daring when it comes to fielding sex-related questions, especially from tabloid reporters. We can't even print most of her answers because this is a family-oriented publication.

Barbara plays a closet lesbian who agrees to marry a guy (Richard Quan). She gets the surprise of her life when she finds out that her supposedly heterosexual husband is gay. She decides to resume her relationship with her girlfriend, played by Stella L.

The role called for Barbara to have a torrid kissing scene with Stella L but it took three takes before the director was happy with the results. "*Wala daw* passion," says Barbara. She admits that, in real life, she doesn't go for same-sex relationships so it took a lot of acting to do that scene.

This bold star dreams of appearing in action pictures and dramas where she doesn't have to undress but for now, she's still in demand for sexy pictures.

If Barbara has no qualms about calling a spade a spade, Pyar is careful when it comes to discussing intimate topics. She's not a prude but she tells us that she doesn't enjoy baring her body for the camera. "*Nakakahiya kasi,*" she says shyly. Asked which big-name star she'd like to do a passionate screen kiss with, her immediate reply is Robin Padilla. It's obvious she has a terrific crush on Binoe.

## Sister

In the movie, she plays the sister of Ana Capri, who takes in her ex-convict lover (John Apacible) to help in their *longanisa* business. Pyar takes a fancy to the ex-con and seduces him. He is only too willing to reciprocate. Ana gets violently mad and comes up with a creative way to punish her erring partner.

Finally, Halina plays a party-going student who rebels against her strict stepmother, played by Pinky Amador. She gets involved with five members of a fraternity led by Gareth (Paolo Rivero). Big mistake. She is gang-raped by the fratmen and doesn't know whom to turn to for help.

Halina's quite happy with her chosen career but regrets that her dad, who lives in the province, doesn't agree with her decision to do bold roles. He has scolded her several times.

The three-in-one concept seems to have worked for Asunta De Rossi in "Red Diaries" and Maricar De Mesa in "Bedtime Stories." Barbara, Pyar and Halina are hoping that "Sex Files" will get the same results.

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# Focus on writers' creative process

From page F7

visitor.

Still, he does give us an honest picture of the scene through the eyes of an outsider who is also an artist.

One thing that Alan Jay Lerner and Richard Wilbur have in common is the fact that all their stars rose in the decades from the '50s to the '70s, and as some of us never witnessed those times, it's good that a book such as Brown's is available to us.

Here we can hear the voices of these men speaking on their own turf and in their own time, and not as dry, disembodied voices from the past, as they are presented in some other texts.

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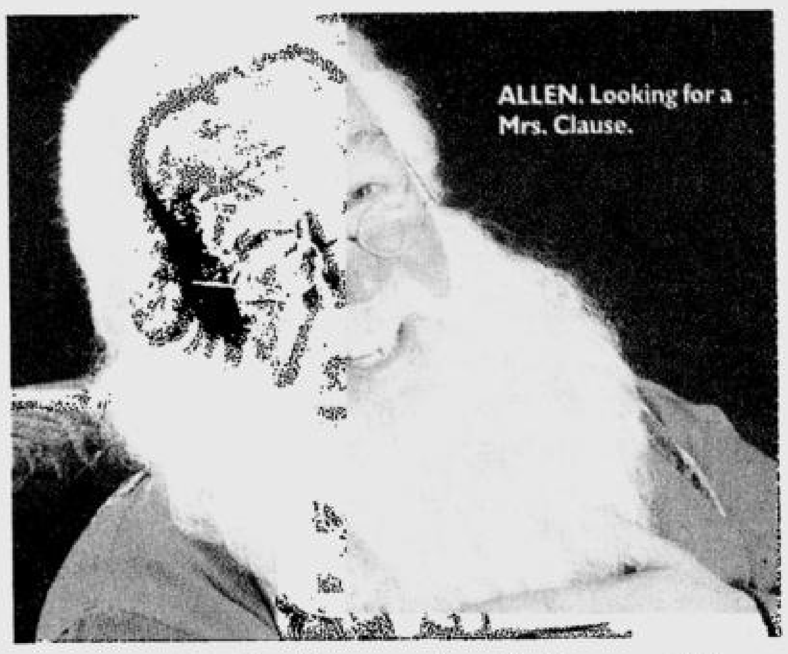
# 'Santa' sequel brings early cheer to American box office

By Dean Goodman



ALLEN. Looking for a Mrs. Clause.

LOS ANGELES—Christmas may be almost two months away, but that did not stop moviegoers from rushing out to see "The Santa Clause 2," a new comedy starring Tim Allen.

## Holiday spirit

Alas, the holiday spirit did not extend to Eddie Murphy's latest action comedy, a remake of the 1960s TV series "I Spy," which opened at No. 3. And last weekend's champion, the reality comedy "Jackass: The Movie" slipped to No. 4.

"The Ring," a thriller about a killer videotape starring Australian actress Naomi Watts, again held the No. 2 spot.

"The Santa Clause 2," a Walt Disney Pictures production, earned an estimated $29 million in its first three days of release across North America, the studio said on Sunday. Its hit predecessor opened one week later in 1994 with $19 million, and ended up with $144.8 million.

The strong opening was no surprise to executives at the Walt Disney Co.-owned studio, who rebuffed some news reports of mediocre pre-release "buzz" on the film.

## Jolly character

"We knew it was a mid-20s picture," said Chuck Viane, Disney's president of distribution. The film, in which Allen's jolly character must find a Mrs. Clause, played in 3,350 theaters, the largest total in the top 10.

But perhaps the biggest story of the weekend was the remarkable staying power of "The Ring." The low-budget DreamWorks film held steady at No. 2 with $18.5 million, a tally unchanged from last weekend. Usually genre films lose about half of their audience each weekend, but "The Ring" is benefiting from great word-of-mouth support, said Jim Tharp, president of distribution at the studio.

"There's an eerie, fun feeling about this movie, and I haven't seen that in a while," he said.

With $64.9 million banked after three weekends, the movie is on course to end up with well over $100 million, Tharp said.

"I Spy," in which Murphy co-stars with Owen Wilson, followed with $14 million. "We certainly would have liked more," said Rory Bruer, president of distribution at Columbia Pictures, a unit of Sony Corp.

## Loose remake

In the loose remake of the 1960s TV series, Wilson and Murphy track down a missing fighter jet. Murphy was last in theaters with the box office bomb "The Adventures of Pluto Nash." Sony's acclaimed Adam Sandler comedy "Punch-Drunk Love" appeared to hit a road block in its first weekend of wide release. The film rose one spot to No. 7 with $4.2 million, a 27 percent increase from last weekend. But the theater count expanded to 1,252 outlets from 481. The film's total after four weeks stands at $11 million.

"Jackass: The Movie" was fourth with $13.1 million, taking its 10-day total to $42.5 million. The gross-out film, based on the canceled MTV reality series, follows a merry band of pranksters who eat urine snow cones and roll around on mousetraps. It was released by Paramount Pictures, a unit of Viacom Inc.

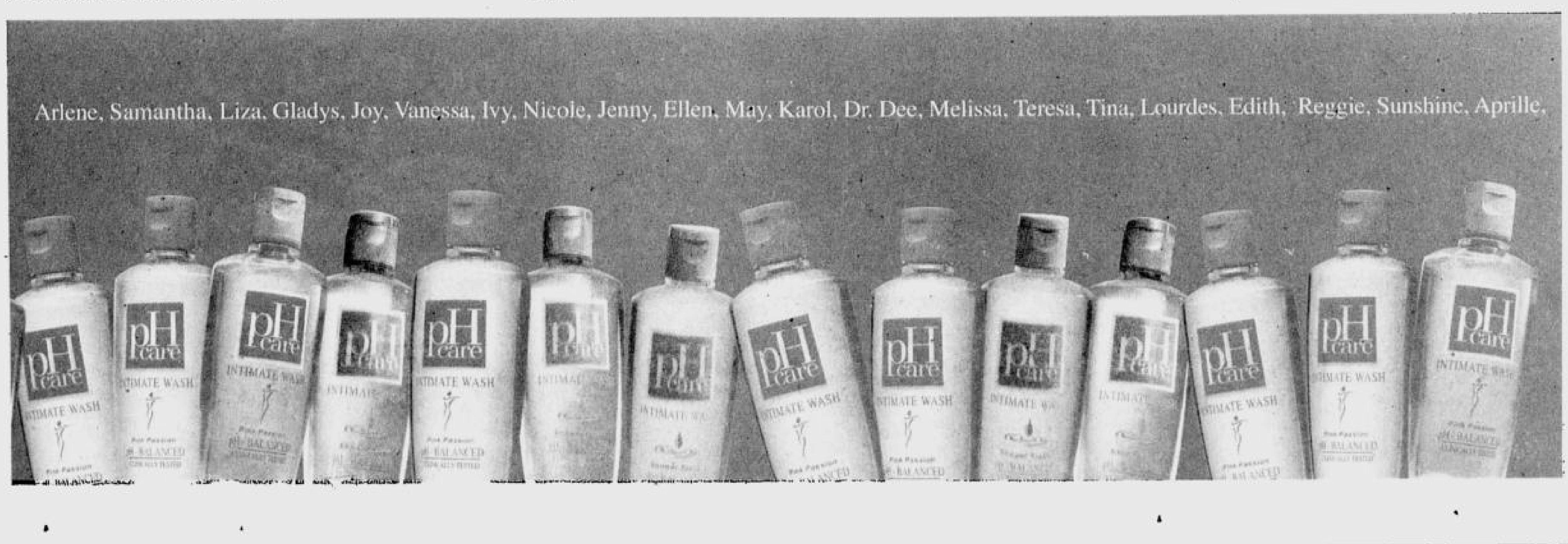
## Maritime thriller

The maritime thriller "Ghost Ship" rounded out the top five, falling two places in its second weekend with $6.6 million. The low-budget saga, starring Gabriel Byrne and Julianna Margulies, rose to $21.3 million after 10 days. The film was released by Warner Bros. Pictures, a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc.

Overall box office receipts ended its seven-week winning streak, according to tracking from Exhibitor Relations. The top 12 grossed $103 million, down 22 percent from the year-ago weekend, when "Monsters, Inc." opened with $62.6 million.

New releases next weekend include "8 Mile," a drama starring rapper Eminem, and "Femme Fatale," a film-noir starring Rebecca Romijn-Stamos.

Just bubbling under the top 10 was "Bowling for Columbine," a Michael Moore documentary about Americans' love affair with guns. It rose seven places to No. 11 with $1.65 million, after tripling its screen count to 162 theaters. After four weeks in release, the film has earned $4.6 million. It was released by United Artists, a unit of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. *Reuters*


Arlene, Samantha, Liza, Gladys, Joy, Vanessa, Ivy, Nicole, Jenny, Ellen, May, Karol, Dr. Dee, Melissa, Teresa, Tina, Lourdes, Edith, Reggie, Sunshine, Aprille.
pH care
INTIMATE WASH

# Rachel performs at Casino Filipino Nov. 15

**ALEJANDRO.** Likes fine-tuning her performances.

By Edmund L. Sicam

FRESH from her concert with Geneva Cruz just a few weeks ago, Rachel is preparing for yet another concert, this time with Dingdong Avanzado. She's performing at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Parañaque on Nov. 15 at 9 p.m. and her show is titled "Another First!"

## First time

Rachel explains: "It's another first for me because it's been so long since I've had a solo concert of this size. And Dingdong and I haven't done a concert together in a very long time."

Rachel wants to get Dingdong to play the piano, since "that's how it all started. He would invite me to his house, and he would play the piano, and that was when I really started to admire him."

Rachel says about working with Dingdong again: "I'm very excited. He's only doing a few numbers, but I'm going to maximize it by making them long medleys."

Rachel credits her theater background for the way she likes to prepare for a concert. "I really like fine-tuning my performances. You have to keep on looking at it and say, *may kulang pa dito, konting ganyan pa.*"

## Competitive spirit

As a singer, did she feel competitive when she had to share her last concert with Geneva, an equally prominent singer? "Of course. *Lalo na* since *pareho kayong babae.* That's human nature. But you just have to curb it, because it's so easy to get lost in that. *Buti na lang,* we're such good friends—and supportive of each other.

"During one part of the show, she sang a song for her son, and that was one of the highlights of the evening. That was such a tearful moment—and that was memorable for her. *Tumindig talaga ang balahibo ko.* I was like, go Gen! It's so nice when it's like that—it's so positive. There's no negativity involved. I'm hoping the same thing will happen in this show with Dingdong."

## Spiels

Another challenge Rachel faces when she does a concert are the spiels. "I'd rather sing 30 songs, in a row than do one spiel. *Takot ako sa* spiels. But I've improved over the years. I guess I got a lot of tips from my dad, and from Martin (Nievera)—he's the king of talk. One thing I learned is, just say what's on your mind, what's in your heart. Also, it's okay to make fun of yourself!"

Rachel's busy with a lot of concerts now, in and out of the country. But she hopes to start working on a repeat, then a tour of her concert with Geneva. She also confesses that she misses doing theater immensely. Hopefully, she says, she will get to do another musical soon.

# Documentary . . .

From page F1

"They say, 'You're so sexy,' and I want to tell them I'm old enough to be their grandmother," she laughed.

Adams called the Bond movies a sort of "modern myth" with "characters we all want to play, for fun.

"It doesn't really matter what man you meet, he wants to be James Bond . . . and I think women like to think of themselves as a Bond Girl, in their own fantasy world." AMC is owned 20 percent by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. and 80 percent by cable TV company Cablevision Systems Corp. *Reuters*

"SAUCE MAR YOSEP!"

Marami ang naSAUCEsorpresa sa sarap ng bagong "Masarsang Pancit Canton."

RFM PRESIDENT
NEW
ORIGINAL FLAVOR
SAUCY MI
Ang Masarsang PANCIT CANTON
2 Easy Steps to Prepare Sauce
1. Mix seasoning, oil and soy sauce.
2. Add 7 tbsp or 1/4 cup hot water. Mix until thick. Pour on cooked noodles and enjoy Saucy Mi!
7 Tbsp hot water OR 1/4 cup hot water
SERVING SUGGESTION
65 GRA
RFM PRESIDENT ENTERPRISES CORPORATION

To the multitude of women and doctors who have discovered the new everyday feminine wash

pH care
INTIMATE WASH

maraming maraming salamat po.

Ashley Mari Lopez

pH care
INTIMATE WASH
pH BALANCED

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

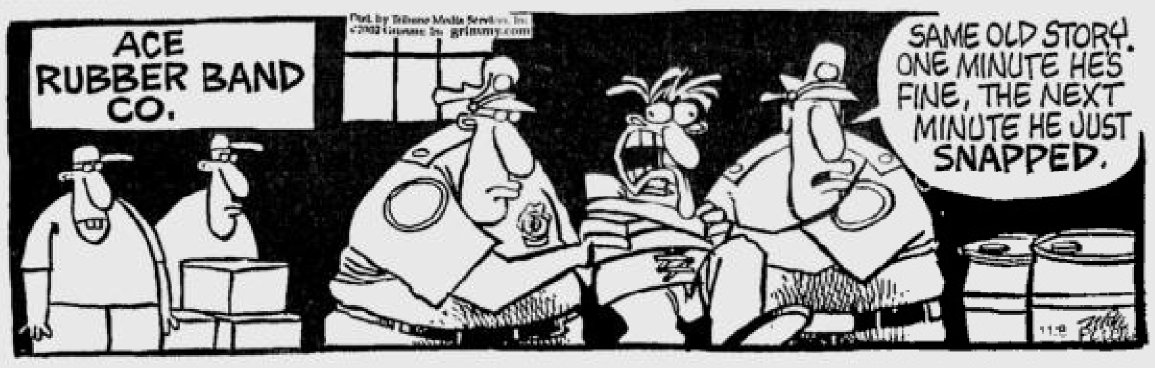
# ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2002

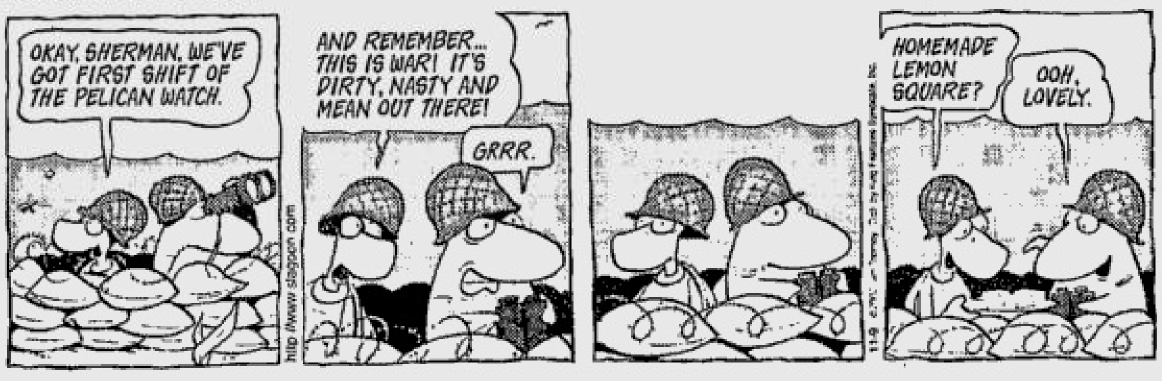
### MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ACE RUBBER BAND CO.
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2002 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
SAME OLD STORY. ONE MINUTE HE'S FINE, THE NEXT MINUTE HE JUST SNAPPED.
11-9

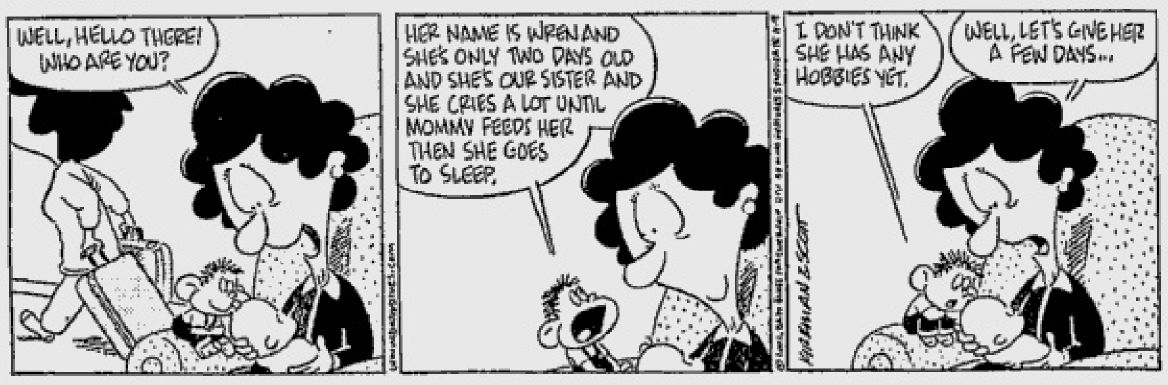
### SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, SHERMAN, WE'VE GOT FIRST SHIFT OF THE PELICAN WATCH.
http://www.slagoon.com
AND REMEMBER... THIS IS WAR! IT'S DIRTY, NASTY AND MEAN OUT THERE!
GRRR.
HOMEMADE LEMON SQUARE?
OOH, LOVELY.

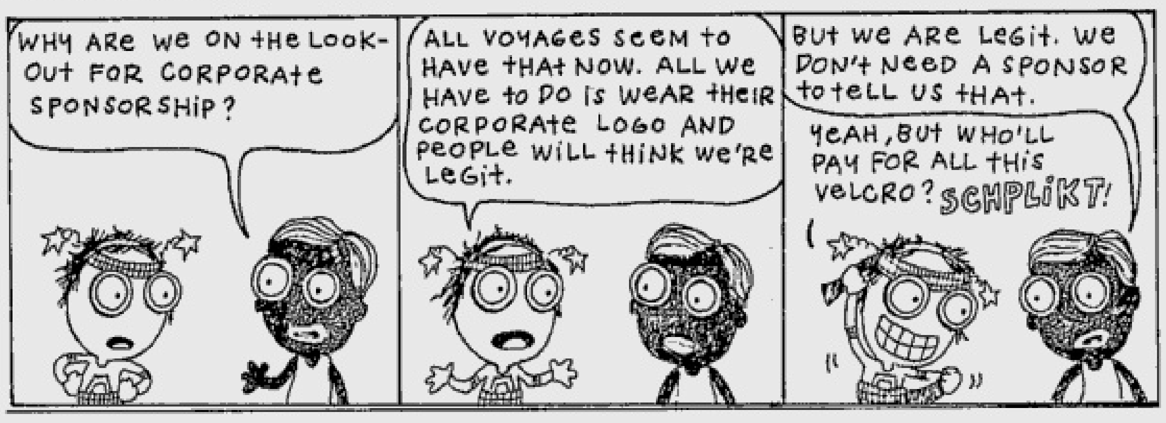
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WELL, HELLO THERE! WHO ARE YOU?
HER NAME IS WREN AND SHE'S ONLY TWO DAYS OLD AND SHE'S OUR SISTER AND SHE CRIES A LOT UNTIL MOMMY FEEDS HER THEN SHE GOES TO SLEEP.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
I DON'T THINK SHE HAS ANY HOBBIES YET.
WELL, LET'S GIVE HER A FEW DAYS...

### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BYLYRA GARCELLANO


WHY ARE WE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP?
ALL VOYAGES SEEM TO HAVE THAT NOW. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WEAR THEIR CORPORATE LOGO AND PEOPLE WILL THINK WE'RE LEGIT.
BUT WE ARE LEGIT. WE DON'T NEED A SPONSOR TO TELL US THAT.
YEAH, BUT WHO'LL PAY FOR ALL THIS VELCRO? SCHPLIKT!

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Tom Weiskopf, Carl Sagan, Lou Ferrigno, Tom Fogerty

**Happy Birthday:** Make sure that you have someone you trust and respect to act as your sounding board for your many ideas. The wheeling and dealing you want to do could lead to disaster if you think too big. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Get all the information you can and base your decisions on practical reasoning. Your numbers are 8, 19, 26, 39, 41, 43

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Take time to call those you don't get to spend time with. You will be very glad that you did and your company will be appreciated.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** If you get really creative you can mix business with pleasure. Your mate will be passionate and ecstatic to be included and you can sign an important deal at the same time.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You will enjoy yourself more if you have made arrangements to include older family members in your plans. Don't hesitate to lend a helping hand. You will look back on this time spent together with fond memories.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You may be missing someone who can't be with you today. A phone call may ease the pain. If you make an effort to enjoy yourself, you can turn your day around.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't be upset if someone in your family is critical of the way you do things. Everyone has their own opinion and you must do what you feel is right. You might want to end your get-together early.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** This is a wonderful day to spend with children, friends or relatives. You have planned everything down to the last detail as usual, and will be praised for your obvious talent.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You may find your family just doesn't understand what you're doing with your life. Remember that you are the only one who can make yourself happy. As long as you are on track with your plans, don't worry.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You may be disturbed by the way others treat you. Don't let them push you into doing things you'd rather not. You can accomplish lots if you put your intentions in writing.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Get some work done before you enjoy your family get-together. Don't let someone put a damper on your good mood. Take advantage of the time you are spending with loved ones.

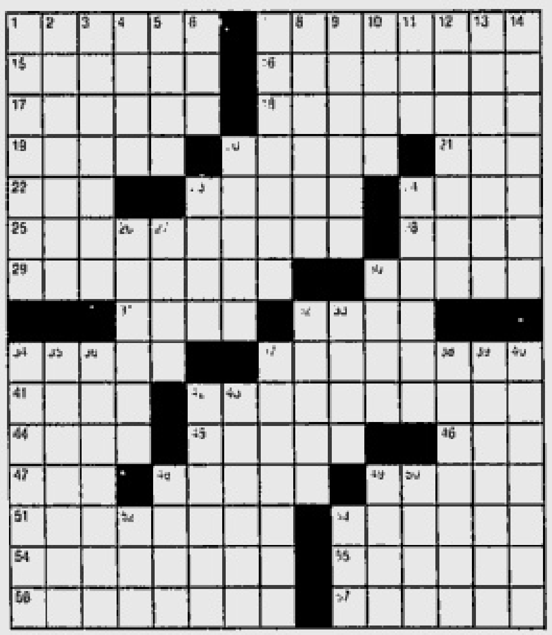
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Try to keep your emotions well hidden today. If you react, you may add fuel to the fire. Keep yourself involved in other pursuits so you don't think about it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You will be working hard to make things right for your family. Don't be dismayed if your efforts go unnoticed. Eventually they will appreciate what you have done.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You will spend today with large groups that have a cause. Your beliefs have brought you together with individuals who can spark your imagination. This will be a very productive time.

**Birthday Baby:** You will always want to be where the action is, and you aren't likely to stop at anything short of your own expectations. You will have to learn to step back and see the whole picture before you make important decisions.

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

11/9/02

**ACROSS**
1 Over refined
7 Low protective walls
15 Liquefied by heat
16 Extravagantly theatrical
17 Pressed
18 Put up with
19 Showed again
20 "Woman Drying Her Feet" painter
21 Mountain pass
22 Friend on the Left Bank
23 Chief Justice in Scott case
24 Well-bred bloke
25 Special assignment units
28 Ashtabula's lake
29 Completeness
30 Smudge
31 Young Scottish girl
32 "The Persistence of Memory" painter
34 Wading bird
37 Cuban dance
41 Delicate fabric
42 Tall silk hats
44 At all times
45 Fountain and Rose
46 Uncertainties
47 Energy
48 Gasps for breath
49 British measurement
51 __ City, MI
53 Mate of a very showy bird
54 Angers
55 Take into custody
56 Least clothed
57 Tithe amounts

**DOWN**
1 Abu Dhabi or Fujairah
2 George the heavyweight
3 Corsage provider
4 Sicilian volcano
5 Adolescent
6 Goal
7 Power
8 Orbit's most distant point
9 Passes on
10 Greek god of war
11 Pebble Beach standard
12 Bric-a-brac shelves
13 Oberon's wife
14 Symbol of regal authority
20 Pub game
23 Lower digits
24 Zodiac sign of twins
26 Assassin
27 "Animal House" setting
30 Rebuff
32 Brubeck and Barry
33 Lincoln and Burrows
34 Like last night's pajamas?
35 Greek cafe
36 Frozen floating mass
37 Most trendy
38 Abusive phrase
39 Reinvigorate
40 Agrees
42 Lightly populated
43 Tightens
48 __ Oreille Lake
49 Nothing more than
50 Merit
52 Sign of victory
53 Light touch

Friday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | P | R | E | S | | S | A | F | I | | E | Y | E | S |
| S | L | E | E | T | | M | L | I | V | | M | E | D | E |
| C | A | L | L | I | T | A | D | A | Y | | C | A | G | E |
| A | C | E | | P | A | L | O | S | | D | E | R | E | K |
| P | E | T | | E | F | T | | C | A | R | E | R | | |
| | | | A | N | T | I | G | O | N | E | | O | A | R |
| A | L | O | U | D | | | R | E | T | I | C | U | L | E |
| G | E | N | E | | B | O | I | S | E | | O | N | A | N |
| R | E | T | R | I | E | V | E | | | E | D | D | I | E |
| A | S | H | | O | N | E | G | A | B | A | Y | | | |
| | | E | S | T | E | R | | W | A | R | | S | G | T |
| O | S | H | E | A | | S | N | A | R | L | | T | E | A |
| A | L | O | T | | W | E | E | K | B | Y | W | E | E | K |
| T | O | U | T | | P | E | R | E | | O | B | E | S | E |
| H | E | R | O | | A | N | D | S | | N | A | D | E | R |

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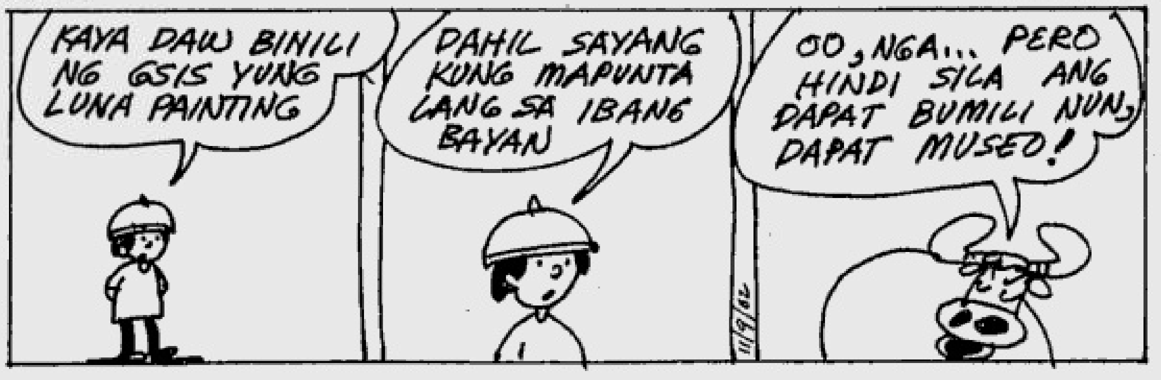
11/8/02

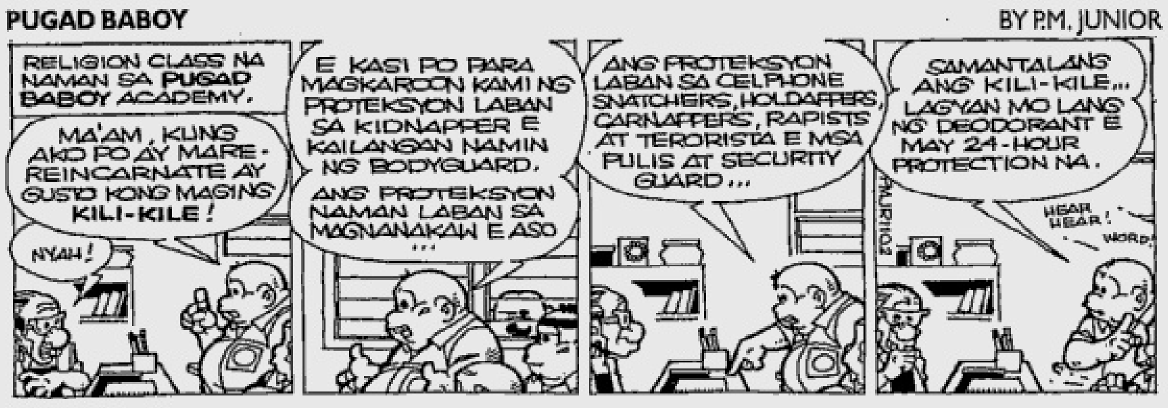
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAYA DAW BINILI NG GSIS YUNG LUNA PAINTING
DAHIL SAYANG KUNG MAPUNTA LANG SA IBANG BAYAN
11/9/02
OO, NGA... PERO HINDI SILA ANG DAPAT BUMILI NUN, DAPAT MUSEO!

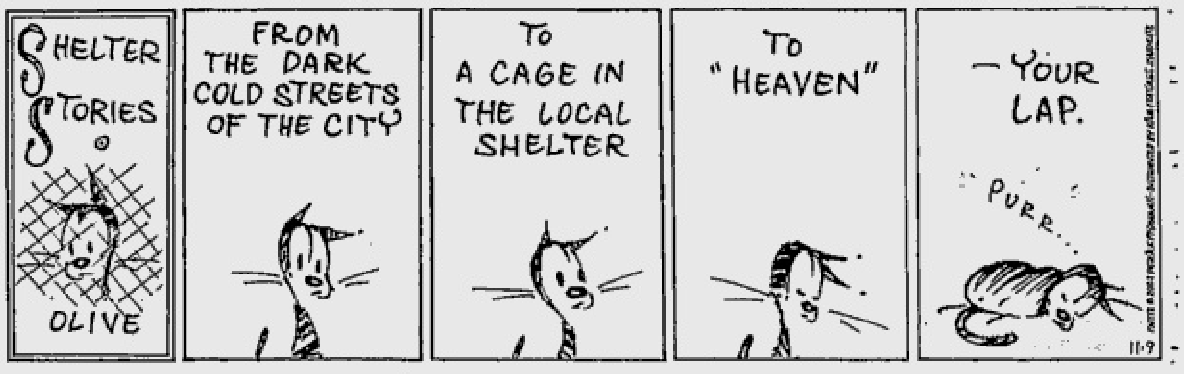
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


RELIGION CLASS NA NAMAN SA PUGAD BABOY ACADEMY.
MA'AM, KUNG AKO PO AY MARE-REINCARNATE AY GUSTO KONG MAGING KILI-KILE!
NYAH!
E KASI PO PARA MAGKAROON KAMI NG PROTEKSYON LABAN SA KIDNAPPER E KAILANGAN NAMIN NG BODYGUARD.
ANG PROTEKSYON NAMAN LABAN SA MAGNANAKAW E ASO...
ANG PROTEKSYON LABAN SA CELPHONE SNATCHERS, HOLDAPPERS, CARNAPPERS, RAPISTS AT TERORISTA E MGA PULIS AT SECURITY GUARD...
SAMANTALANG ANG KILI-KILE... LAGYAN MO LANG NG DEODORANT E MAY 24-HOUR PROTECTION NA.
HEAR HEAR!
WORD!

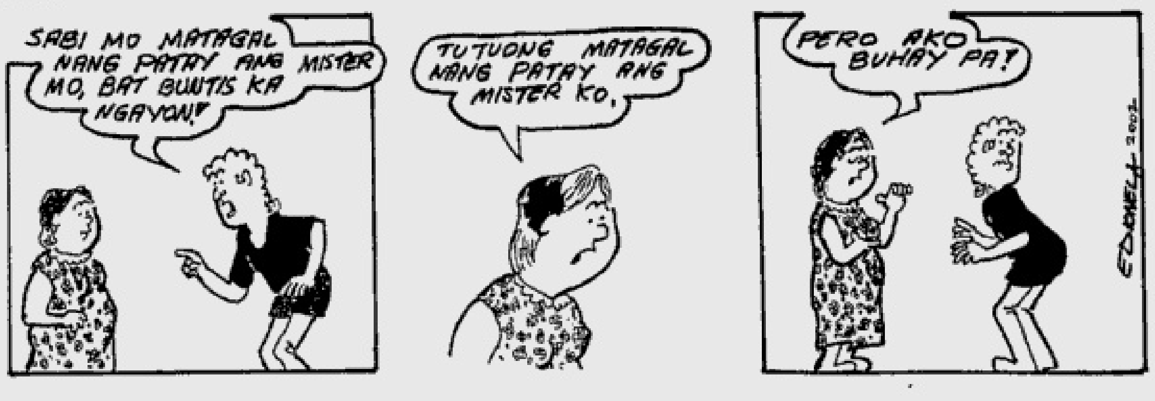
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
OLIVE
FROM THE DARK COLD STREETS OF THE CITY
TO A CAGE IN THE LOCAL SHELTER
TO "HEAVEN"
— YOUR LAP.
PURR...
11-9

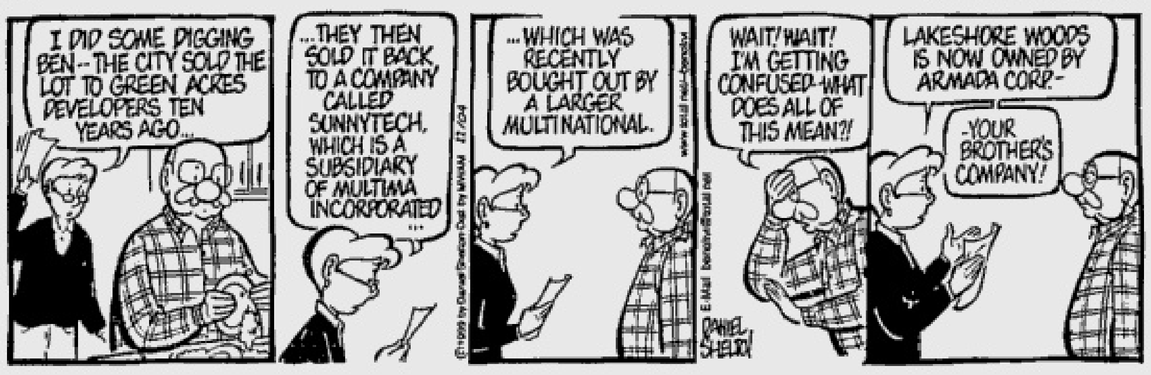
### SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SABI MO MATAGAL NANG PATAY ANG MISTER MO, BAT BUNTIS KA NGAYON!
TUTUONG MATAGAL NANG PATAY ANG MISTER KO,
PERO AKO BUHAY PA!
EDIONELA 2002

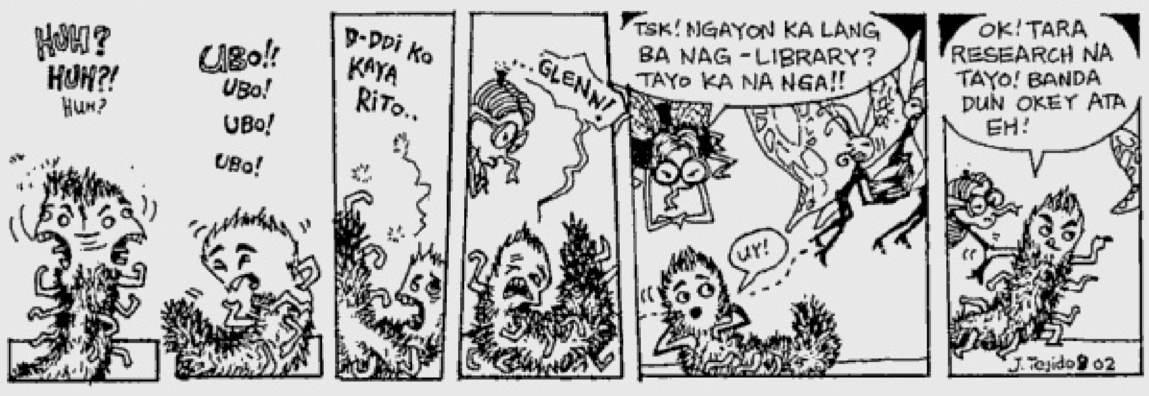
### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I DID SOME DIGGING BEN--THE CITY SOLD THE LOT TO GREEN ACRES DEVELOPERS TEN YEARS AGO...
...THEY THEN SOLD IT BACK TO A COMPANY CALLED SUNNYTECH, WHICH IS A SUBSIDIARY OF MULTIMA INCORPORATED...
...WHICH WAS RECENTLY BOUGHT OUT BY A LARGER MULTINATIONAL.
WAIT! WAIT! I'M GETTING CONFUSED-WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN?!
LAKESHORE WOODS IS NOW OWNED BY ARMADA CORP-
-YOUR BROTHER'S COMPANY!
DANIEL SHELTON

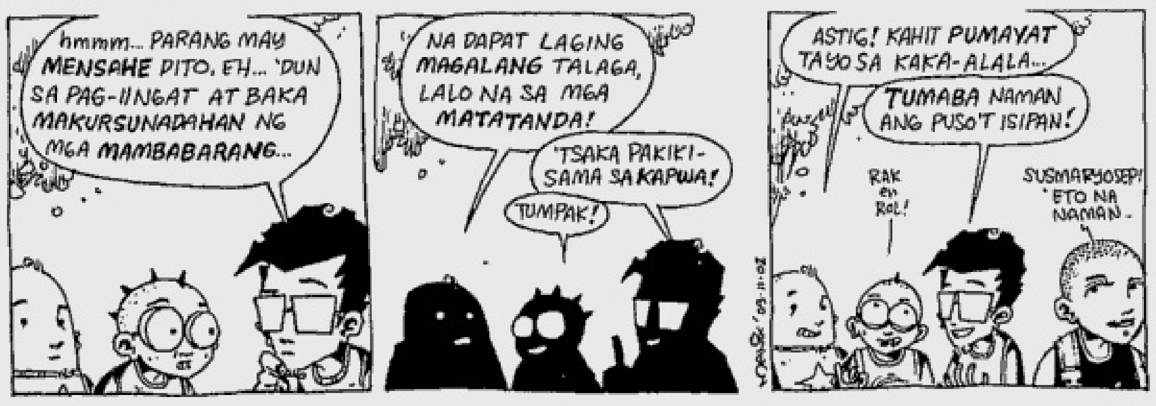
### MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HUH? HUH?! HUH?
UBO!! UBO! UBO! UBO!
D-DDI KO KAYA RITO..
...GLENN!
TSK! NGAYON KA LANG BA NAG-LIBRARY? TAYO KA NA NGA!!
UY!
OK! TARA RESEARCH NA TAYO! BANDA DUN OKEY ATA EH!
J. Tejido 02

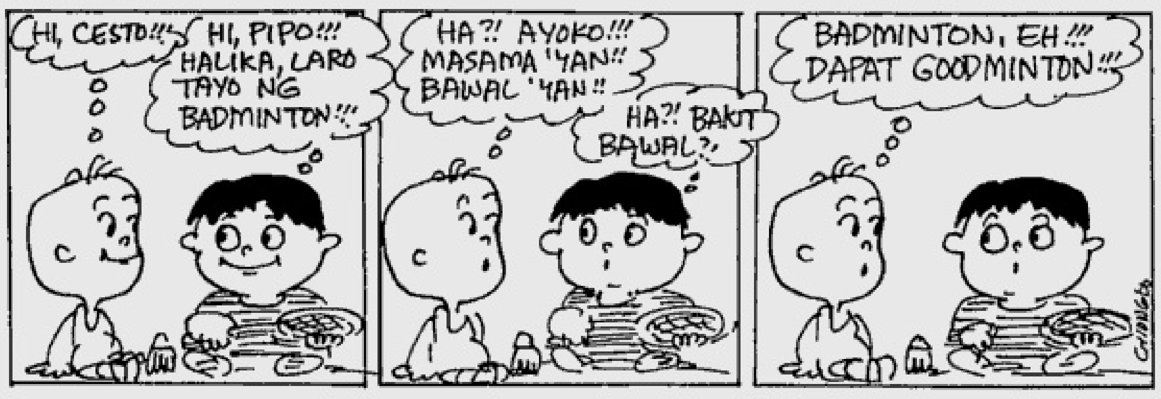
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hmmm... PARANG MAY MENSAHE DITO, EH... 'DUN SA PAG-IINGAT AT BAKA MAKURSUNADAHAN NG MGA MAMBABARANG...
NA DAPAT LAGING MAGALANG TALAGA, LALO NA SA MGA MATATANDA!
'TSAKA PAKIKI-SAMA SA KAPWA!
TUMPAK!
ASTIG! KAHIT PUMAYAT TAYO SA KAKA-ALALA...
TUMABA NAMAN ANG PUSO'T ISIPAN!
RAK EN ROL!
SUSMARYOSEP! 'ETO NA NAMAN.

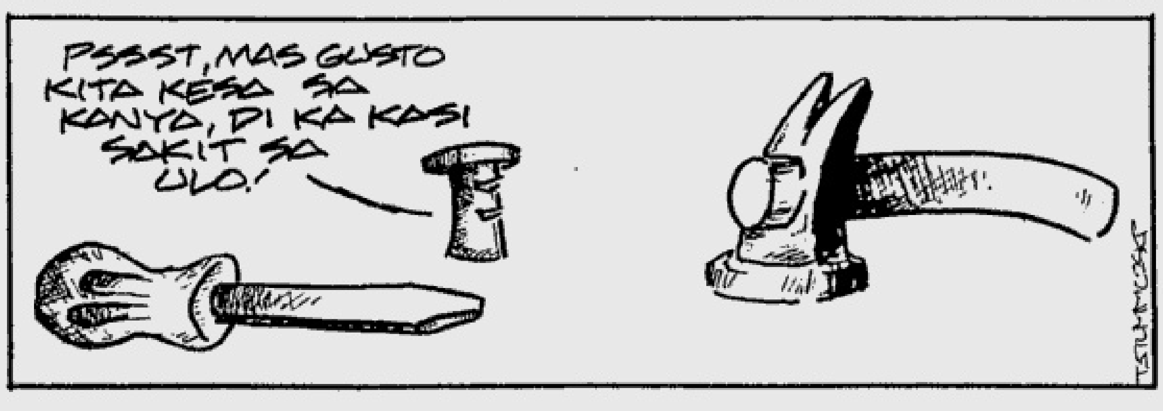
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HI, CESTO!!!
HI, PIPO!!! HALIKA, LARO TAYO NG BADMINTON!!!
HA?! AYOKO!!! MASAMA 'YAN!! BAWAL 'YAN!!
HA?! BAKIT BAWAL?!
BADMINTON, EH!!! DAPAT GOODMINTON!!!
CHIONGLO

### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PSSST, MAS GUSTO KITA KESA SA KANYA, DI KA KASI SAKIT SA ULO!

# Edward Norton is passionate about acting

**SHOW BIZ Q & A**

*Rito P. Asilo*

*FROM Jarcy Gumabao of Tarlac,* **"I became Edward Norton's fan the moment I saw 'Primal Fear,' his movie debut. Where did he come from? Is he married, or dating anybody we know?"**

The 33-year-old 6'1" actor graduated from Yale, majoring in history. Edward Norton has always been interested in acting.

## Babysitter

His babysitter, Betsy True, went on to perform the role of Cosette in the Broadway version of "Les Miserables." She was the one who originally got young Edward interested in acting, taking him to see his first play, "If I Were a Princess," at age 6. At the age of 8, he would ask his drama teacher in school what his motivation was in a scene!

His breakaway role in "Primal Fear" was first offered to Leonardo DiCaprio, but the young actor turned it down. Richard Gere was on the verge of walking away from the project, fed up with the year-long wait for a young star to be found, when Norton auditioned and won the role over 2,000 hopefuls. His test for the part caused a sensation even before the film was released.

Critics and film afficionados predicted a great future for Norton when "Primal Fear" came out in 1996. True enough, he won a Golden Globe and nods from the National Board of Review and the Chicago Film Critics, including a highly coveted Oscar nomination.

## Awards

His string of awards include wins for "People vs. Larry Flynt" (from the Boston Society of Film Critics), "Everyone Says I Love You" (from the LA Film Critics, despite his less than brilliant singing in Woody Allen's musical) and a second Oscar nomination for "American History X."

Norton turned down the role of Private Ryan (which landed on Matt Damon's lap) in Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan." He auditioned for John Grisham's "The Rainmaker" but the role also went to Damon.

He was considered for the role of Andy Kaufman in "Man on the Moon" but director Milos Forman could not decide between him and Jim Carrey, and left the decision up to the studio, which went with the bankable comedian.

For "American History X," he gained 30 pounds to transform his look into that of a skinhead. His dedication to his craft as an actor is absolute. But don't ask him to smoke! For his supposedly cigarette-puffing character in "Rounders," which also starred Damon, he refused to inhale. He says, "I don't smoke and I don't want to smoke. I am not a fan of gratuitous smoking in films." Okay, okay, we get it, Edward.

## Critics

He directed the romantic comedy, "Keeping the Faith," in which he co-starred with Ben Stiller and Jenna Elfman, but the charmless movie had the critics huffing and puffing.

His movie with Anthony Hopkins and Ralph Fiennes, "Red Dragon," the prequel to Thomas Harris' Hannibal Lecter trilogy, is still showing in some theaters. Next on his plate is Spike Lee's "25th Hour." Then, he will be seen in Salma Hayek's big break, "Frida," whose screenplay Norton co-wrote.

Also in production are "The Italian Job" and "Fear Itself" (a remake of "Straw Dogs"), a film that he's co-producing.

Unknown to many, Edward is also an accomplished stage actor. He dabbles in theater during lulls in film shoots to "re-energize" his acting chops.

He first performed in Signature Theater Company's 1994 production of Edward Albee's "Fragments," and is currently performing in Lanford Wilson's "Burn This," opposite Catherine Keener, on the legitimate stage.

He used to date singer-actress Courtney Love for two years, and has been dating Latina actress Salma Hayek since 1999.

**NORTON. His dedication to his craft is absolute.**

## Trivia

Did you know that Tom Hanks, Johnny Depp, Jamie Lee Curtis and Jennifer Aniston started in horror flicks? Hanks debuted in "He Knows You're Alone," Depp was in the original "Nightmare on Elm Street," Curtis was first noticed in "Halloween" and Aniston stretched her vocal chords by screaming in "Leprechaun."

# Focus on writers' creative process

By Noelani Torre

DENNIS Brown's interviews with Alan Jay Lerner and Richard Wilbur on their creative process in his book "Shoptalk" are placed under the heading "Wordsmiths."

## Style and technique

As the chapter heading suggests, these two disparate authors are brought together on the basis of their style and technique: "They're both craftsmen constrained by meter," says Brown. "Lerner was a lyricist whose rhymes sometimes aspired to poetry; Wilbur is a poet who flirted briefly with lyric-writing.

Lerner was the one who really had a career onstage, however, with such classic creations as "Brigadoon," "My Fair Lady," "Gigi," and "Camelot." Along with longtime collaborator composer Frederick Loewe, he "elevated the post-war musical to new heights of sophistication and intelligence."

## Success

When Brown interviewed this pillar of the American musical in the late '70s, however, the pair had already split up and Lerner had just published his autobiography. Theorizing on what went wrong in his and Loewe's successful partnership, Lerner put it down to success which, he said, "steals your defenses and leaves you on top of the world, stark naked."

"I think the higher up you go, the more sensitive you become," he told the interviewer. "When you're struggling, you're like a fighter. You take the blows and you keep going. But when you reach a certain point—and I've always been amazed by it—you become more sensitive, not less."

## Human voice

Lerner has much to say about lyric writing in this interview: "I love the human voice and have very precise ideas about what sound I want on certain notes. Most people who write lyrics, even when they have marvelous ideas, don't understand that they are written for the human voice, which has certain requirements. Whether a lyric I write is good or bad is not for me to judge. But I know they are singable, because everything is where it ought to be."

Unfortunately, after his split with Loewe, Lerner's career dipped. But after his death in 1986, Brown reports, "for the first time in a long time, he was viewed 'in the context of a lifetime' in the theater. This time, he was not dismissed."

Compared to Lerner, Wilbur's Broadway career has been quite short. But then again, he is first and foremost a poet, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning one, at that. He was America's former poet laureate, and in the 1950s he was considered as important a poet as Robert Lowell. He is also widely-known for his critically acclaimed translations of Moliere.

## Mild language

It was Moliere's "Candide" that Wilbur helped bring to the stage, though it wasn't very successful on its first run.

"I should like to say this without bitterness," he said, "but I don't know whether I can find mild language with which to say it.

"It seems to me that the Broadway scene is very much cluttered by lawyers and agents of dubious moral character, and almost anybody going seriously into musical theater is bound to find himself used and cheated and alienated.

"I think that serious artists, serious writers and serious musicians don't want to do things 'on spec' and have them fail in performance. If, indeed, they even get to performance.

"It's heartbreaking to write a lot of good songs and then find yourself in a position where, because of the chicanery of a few people not truly concerned with the construction of the show, these things can never be heard."

## Visitor

Wilbur didn't involve himself in musical theater after that, but then again the theater wasn't really where his life was centered in the first place. In contrast to the other life-long inhabitants of that milieu interviewed in this book, Wilbur was just a

FOCUS/F4

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**MECHANICS:**

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2. You may also write your particulars on a piece of paper and attach this to a single wrapper, label, pouch, or cap of any Nestlé or Goya Chocolates and Candies enumerated above.
3. Drop your entries at the Nestlé Family Breakaway drop boxes at designated supermarkets and groceries nationwide.
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and Marketing Corp.
144 Pinatubo St.,
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6. Cut-off date for sending entries is on Jan. 2, 2003.
7. Drawing of winners will be held on Jan. 17, 2003 at Goya, Inc. Head Office.

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1. All prizes are tax-free.
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3. Prizes to be given away are as follows:

Grand Prize: One (1) ₱ 2 million pesos cash
Consolation Prizes: Twenty-five (25) ₱ 20,000 cash

4. The first valid entry drawn will be declared as the winner.
5. A winner can only win once.
6. Three-fourths of the wrapper, label, pouch, or cap must be intact to qualify as an entry.
7. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of telegram shall be forfeited only upon approval of DOH-BFAD.
8. Winners must present any two valid identification papers along with the original telegram of notice when claiming their prizes. Accepted identification papers are as follows: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage License, Driver's License or SSS ID.
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10. All winners will shoulder transportation/travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
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13. Nestlé Philippines, Inc. reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes.
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WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Story: "O, kanya-kanyang toka, ha!" Page 6
- Young Chef Page 8
- Your Poetry Pages 10 & 12
- The Lunch Box Page 11

# Hi-ho Hoofprints, away!

**By Eline Santos**

XAVIER School's Hoofprints wins the Catholic Mass Media Awards for the second time.

"WHAT really, really makes Hoofprints special is that our moderators emphasize on ethics. Ethics always," said Harvey King, former associate editor of Hoofprints.

Hoofprints won in the CMMA's Best Student Organ category.

Ethics in journalism is the principle of doing your job right and without harming other human beings.

Former Hoofprints editor in chief Casey Lim admits ethics is sometimes learned through experience. "I once wrote an article, something on ADHD, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. I wasn't too careful about it and what happened was a parent actually complained."

### Mistakes

The parent was an occupational therapist and pointed out a few mis-

**Hi-ho/** p. 3

**XAVIER students Harvey, Kenneth and Aaron receive the CMMA award for Hoofprints.**

ERNIE SARMIENTO

# OUT THERE

By Christine A. Paita

**Got something for Out There?** Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

## Workshops

**ART STROKES.** Join Outlet Yard's year-ender "Art Strokes." Check out the following schedule of workshops: **drawing** and **sketching** in pencil/charcoal, Nov. 9 and 23; pastel drawing, Nov. 10 and 24; **watercolor** painting, Nov. 16 and 30; **oil** painting, Nov. 17 and Dec. 7. Check out the **Christmas Lantern-making** workshop on Dec. 8. Registration fee is P150 per session/per student. For more info, call 740-7221. Outlet Yard is located at 1480 Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

**MUSICAL THEATER.** Sacred Heart School opens its Musical Theater Workshop to **kids ages 3-12**. The workshop runs from Nov. 16 to February 1, every Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. For details, call 810-8506 or 894-2273.

## Contests

**LANTERN-MAKING.** Join Outlet Yard's "Pasko sa Pamilyang Pilipino" parol-making contest! **Build your lantern at home** and send it to the Outlet Yard Admin. Office from Nov. 16 to Dec. 8. Or you can join the parol-making workshop on Dec. 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. Entries should be submitted at the end of the session. For details, call 740-7221. Outlet Yard is located at 1480 Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

**CHRISTMAS CARD.** Join KidsActs Philippines Christmas card drawing contest. Artists 14 years old and below may join. The theme is: **"Give Love on Christmas Day!"** Use any medium on an 8.5 x 11-inch white drawing paper or cardboard. Submit as many as 3 designs. Send them to KidsActs Philippines, No. 15 Sunrise St., La Paz Village, Makati City not later than Dec. 9, 6 p.m. For more info, please call 896-7656 (Eugene), 0919-4132282 (Luigi), or e-mail kids_acts@hotmail.com.

**ON-THE-SPOT DRAWING.** Star Kids Daycare International invites kids to join its on-the-spot **Christmas Drawing Contest**. The theme for this one is **"Ang Pasko ay Pagbibigayan at Pagmamahalan."** Be at the 2nd Flr., South Wing of Metropolis Star, Alabang, Muntinlupa City on Nov. 30, Saturday, 3 p.m. Category 1 is for kids ages 5 to 7, while Category 2 is for 8-to 12-year-olds. Call 543-3927/56 local 148 for more details.

## Cable Picks

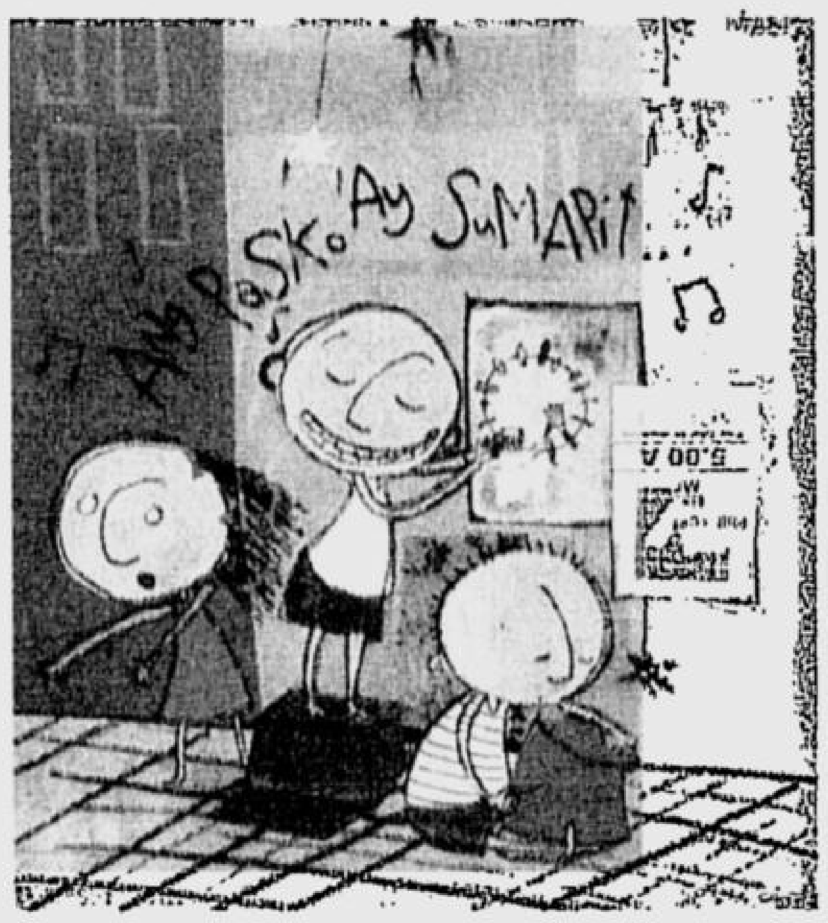
**TARSIER ON FOCUS.** It can turn its head around more than 180 degrees and it lives only in **Bohol, Philippines**. Meet the tarsier in "The Littlest Alien" on National Geographic Channel on Monday, November 11, at 9 p.m.

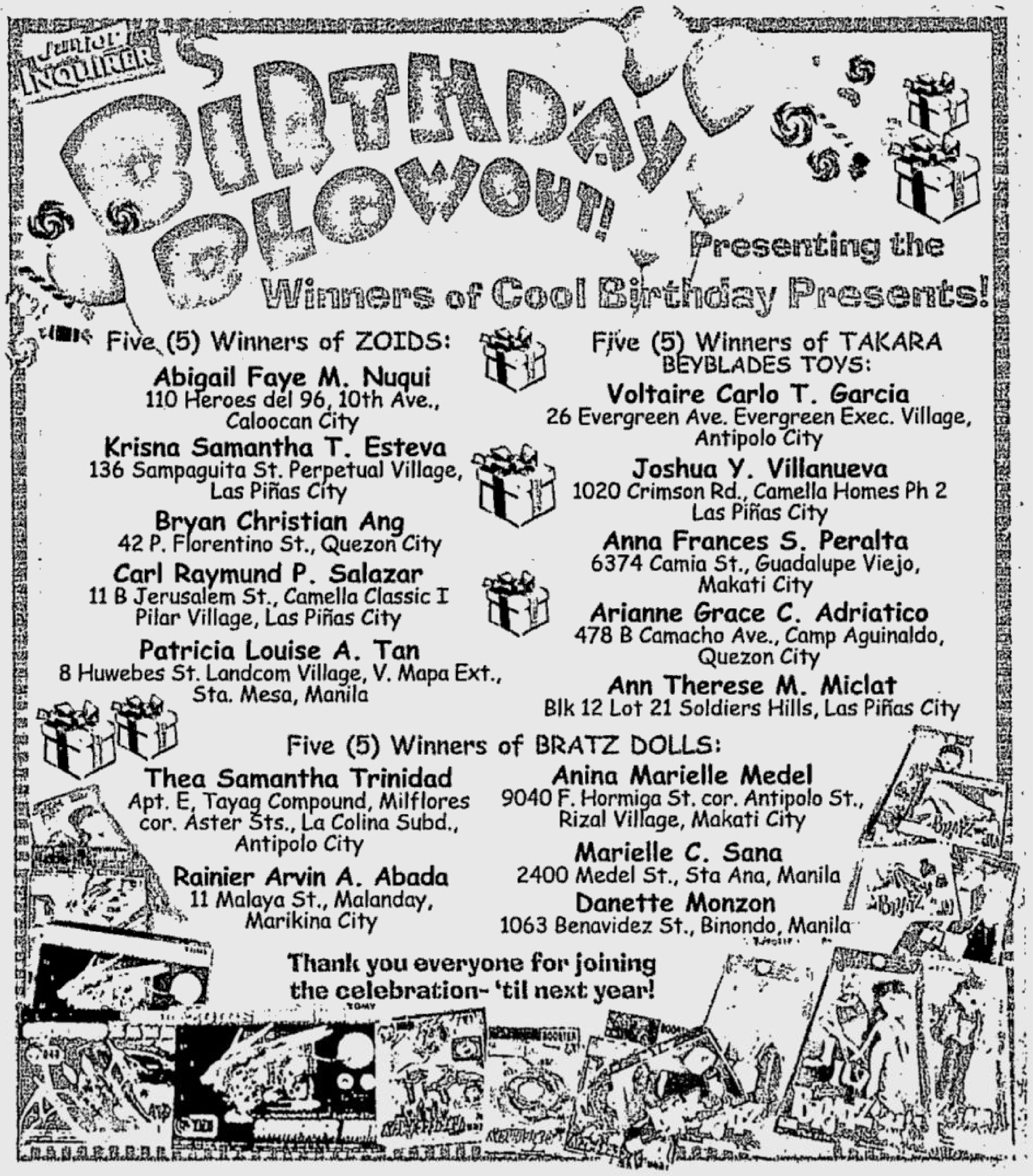
**DEEBLE AND STONE.** Join wildlife filmmakers Mark Deeble and Vicky Stone in their outdoor adventure in **"Deeble and Stone"** on National Geographic Channel on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 9 p.m. With a lifestyle that's anything but ordinary, this dynamic team along with their two children have captured on film some of nature's most elusive creatures and most dramatic moments.

**UNDERWATER wonder in "Deeble and Stone" on NGC.**

## Stuff

**CHRISTMAS CARDS.** Send Christmas cheers by way of colorful **Christmas cards by Museo Pambata**. Choose from its 1998-2001 collection of designs by acclaimed artists and book illustrators. All-occasion cards by the **Blanco family of artists** are also available at discounted prices. Each card you buy helps fund the Mobile Library Program of Museo Pambata. The cards can be purchased at the Museo Pambata Giftshop on Roxas Blvd. corner South Drive, Manila. Visit them online at www.museopambata.org. To order, call Anna at 523-1797 to 98 or e-mail mrktng@museopambata.org.


Ang Pasko 'Ay Sumapit...



Junior Inquirer

# BIRTHDAY BLOWOUT!

Presenting the Winners of Cool Birthday Presents!

Five (5) Winners of ZOIDS:

**Abigail Faye M. Nuqui**
110 Heroes del 96, 10th Ave.,
Caloocan City

**Krisna Samantha T. Esteva**
136 Sampaguita St. Perpetual Village,
Las Piñas City

**Bryan Christian Ang**
42 P. Florentino St., Quezon City

**Carl Raymund P. Salazar**
11 B Jerusalem St., Camella Classic I
Pilar Village, Las Piñas City

**Patricia Louise A. Tan**
8 Huwebes St. Landcom Village, V. Mapa Ext.,
Sta. Mesa, Manila

Five (5) Winners of TAKARA BEYBLADES TOYS:

**Voltaire Carlo T. Garcia**
26 Evergreen Ave. Evergreen Exec. Village,
Antipolo City

**Joshua Y. Villanueva**
1020 Crimson Rd., Camella Homes Ph 2
Las Piñas City

**Anna Frances S. Peralta**
6374 Camia St., Guadalupe Viejo,
Makati City

**Arianne Grace C. Adriatico**
478 B Camacho Ave., Camp Aguinaldo,
Quezon City

**Ann Therese M. Miclat**
Blk 12 Lot 21 Soldiers Hills, Las Piñas City

Five (5) Winners of BRATZ DOLLS:

**Thea Samantha Trinidad**
Apt. E, Tayag Compound, Milflores
cor. Aster Sts., La Colina Subd.,
Antipolo City

**Rainier Arvin A. Abada**
11 Malaya St., Malanday,
Marikina City

**Anina Marielle Medel**
9040 F. Hormiga St. cor. Antipolo St.,
Rizal Village, Makati City

**Marielle C. Sana**
2400 Medel St., Sta Ana, Manila

**Danette Monzon**
1063 Benavidez St., Binondo, Manila

**Thank you everyone for joining the celebration- 'til next year!**

## Hi-Ho Hoofprints, away!

(from page 1)

takes in the article. "So we made an errata and I learned to be more careful with my work," Casey concludes. "We learn things step by step along the way."

Aside from ethics, Casey adds, "We always have to do our best to make Hoofprints stand out among the rest." Excellence is an important ingredient in their paper.

"Never be satisfied with mediocre articles, mediocre work. Do the right things, show the right stuff."

The staff credits their success to the support of people around them.

### Help From All Over

"Well, for one thing there's the support from the administration and then there's the support from our parents," Harvey expresses his gratitude. They are particularly appreciative of their moderators: Alex Santos, Rina Golez, Liza Permelona and Eric Espiña. "They're really into writing. They don't mind helping out but they don't do the work for us, which is good. They just

Hi-ho/ p. 5

LI'L HANDS® Arts & Crafts CLUB
PRE-CHRISTMAS FUNDAY
November 16, 2002
Courtyard, Yuchengco Tower,
RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City

Free Arts and Crafts WORKSHOP
*Storytelling for Toddlers
*Ages 4 to 6 - Crayola "WACKY CHRISTMAS STOCKING"
*Ages 7 to 9 - Li'l Hands "COLORFUL CHRISTMAS WINDSOCK"
*Ages 10 and above - Mongol / Lotus / Sanford "CARTOON CHRISTMAS POSTER"

FUN ACTIVITIES!
Parlor Games, Special Numbers Raffle Draw, Mr. Mongol and Ms. Crayola mascot appearance. Various arts and craft demos.

HOW TO JOIN:
1. Registration time will be from 12 noon to 1 pm
2. Present your Li'l Hands Club ID
3. Only the first 30 participants shall be able to join the workshop
4. All workshop participants will receive certificates and gift packs.

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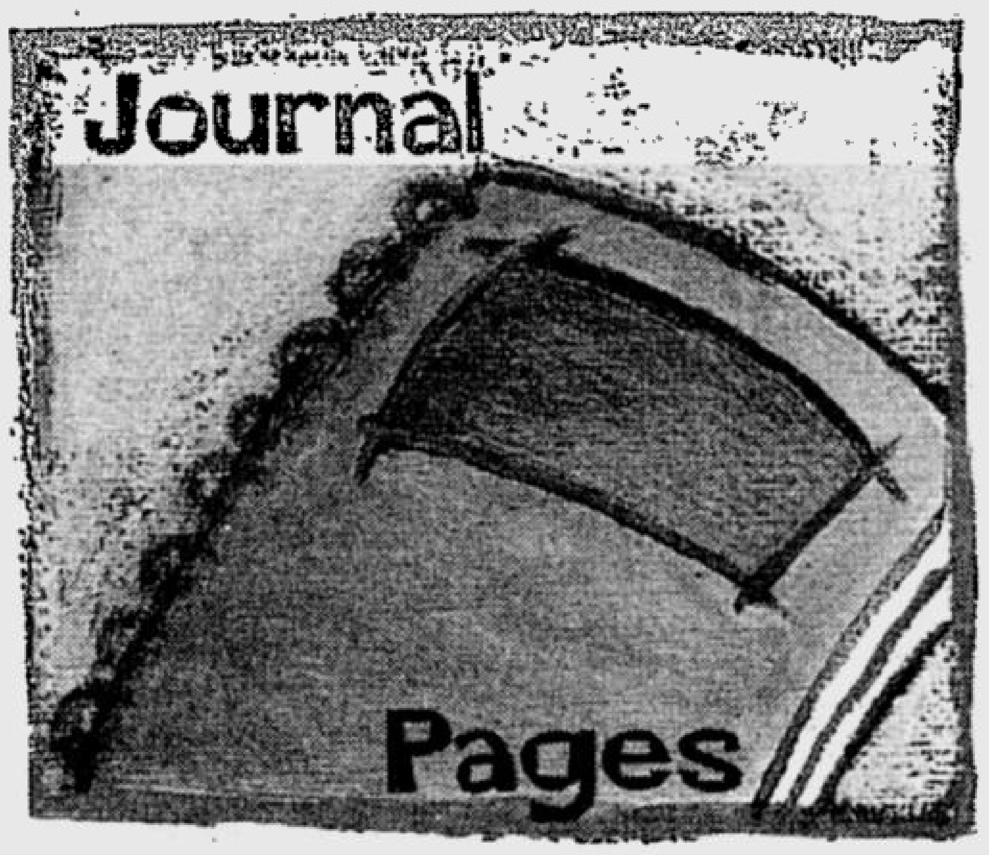
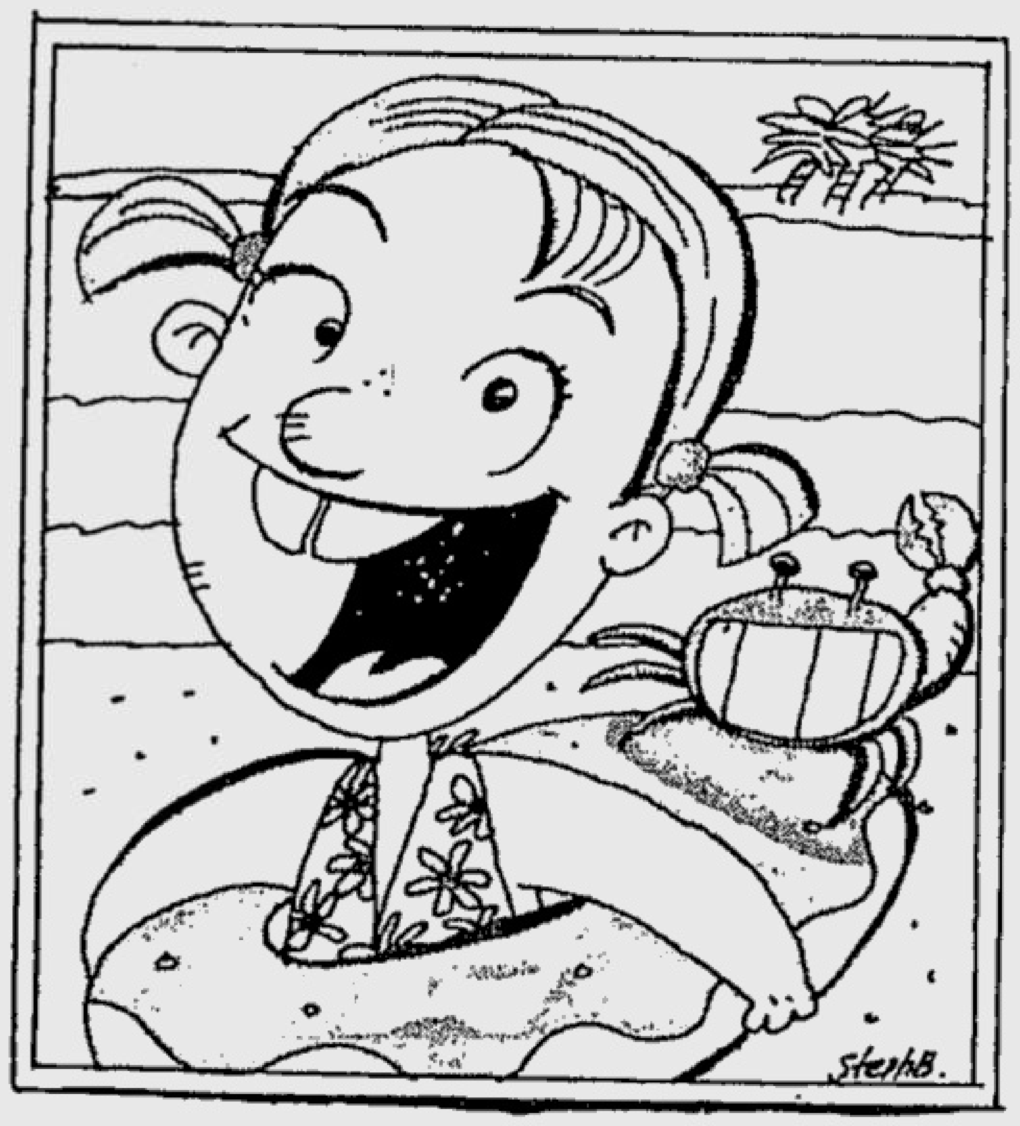


# My White Paradise

**By Kyla Novell**



IN the morning you are awakened by a fiery-colored sunrise that will take your breath away. It simply hypnotizes you. It's like that in Boracay.

You take a dip in the not-so-cold water, build your castle, bury yourself in the sand, and just have plain fun.

Snorkeling is one of my personal favorites. The water is warmer as you go deeper, and you see the marvelous world of fish and coral. You see many different species of fish such as Angel fish and Clown fish.

Once I put bread in my brother's trunk. When he went into the water a Zebra fish swam into his trunks and bit him on the behind.

You can spend your whole evening deciding what to eat! It's fun to go from one restaurant to another looking at what each place has to offer. It is like all of the countries of the world have restaurants there. There is Filipino, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, Thai, Korean, Indian cuisine and much more.

There are fishermen walking in the streets, selling fresh seafood like huge lobsters, kicking crabs with their huge claws, jumping shrimps and squirming fish in different colors. There's red or black lapu-lapu and rainbow fish.

Just writing this article makes me want to go back to Boracay again. If I had money right now, I would definitely buy a ticket to go back to my white paradise.

### *Sound Familiar ?*

**Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!**

## Straight From JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

## A Day at Libis Elementary School

IN the subdivision where I live, there are some mothers who meet monthly to exchange recipes and other homemaking tips. They also helped out with the parish's feeding program. My mother's partner for the day couldn't make it. So she asked me to go with her.

We went to Libis Elementary School to share food and reach out to those in need. The school was a little smaller than our school. The children looked okay. But most of them looked thinner than they should be.

My mom, our helper and I gave out servings of spaghetti. We cooked that at home. We also gave out orange juice and cookies given by my mom's partner.

When we got home, my mom asked me how I felt about that morning's activitiy.

I learned that you should count the blessings that God has given you. As I looked at each child's thin face, I realized how lucky I am to have a comfortable home and to always have food on the table.

I would like to do this feeding program again because it makes kids happy, and it makes me feel good when I make others happy.—**CATHERINE C. HUANG**, 10, Poveda Learning Center

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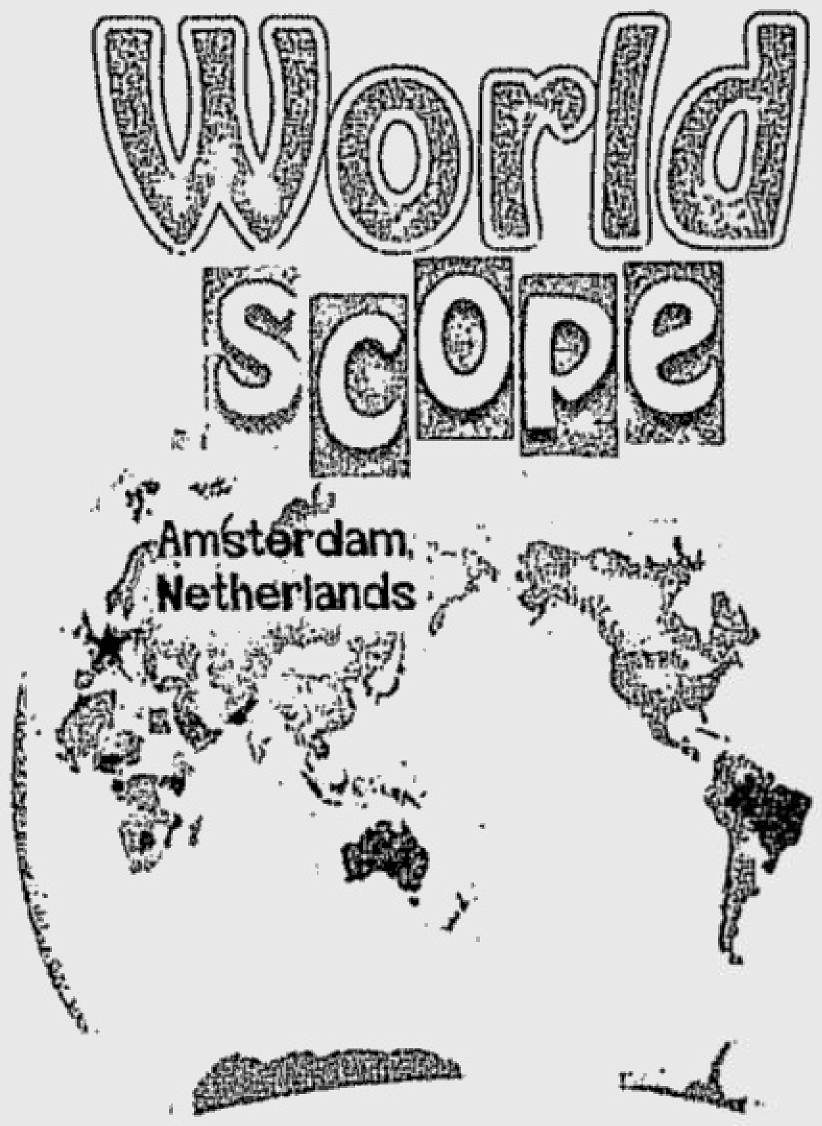

## The Dutch catch on...

A BICYCLE taxi passes Dam Square in the center of Amsterdam. Five bicycle taxis, or "Velotaxis," were introduced to the bike-crazy city of Amsterdam this week for a trial run, and judging by the initial enthusiastic reaction, they may soon become a fixture. Hmmm, that's nothing new, *'di ba*? We've had "tricycads" in the Philippines for years! *AP*

## Hi-Ho...

(from page 3)

guide us."

"If we finish the article early, we give it to the editor. At times we give it to the moderator," Harvey explains. "The moderator will give it back to us with corrections saying how we can change it. For example, they might suggest, 'you can make this longer or fix this.' He just tells us what we can do, then we do it by ourselves and resubmit the article."

### Free to Think Independently

"Our moderator is liberal," Aaron Chan, former features editor agrees. "He lets us think, but he knows when to draw the line... He knows when to let us go and when to keep us in."

**Hi-Ho**/ p. 12

PUMP UP THE VOLUME!
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LET'S GET LOUD!
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HOT WHEELS
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Toon-in to Cartoon Network from November 1 to 20 to hear some of the Network's biggest stars singing Christmas carols. Vote for your favorite one and you could win great prizes.

- 1 grand prize: A special edition The Powerpuff Girls monopoly set and a Cartoon Network Christmas Hamper plus 2 RICHWELL Showcases
- 200 runner-ups: Cartoon Network Christmas gift sets (Cartoon Network Watch, Magnet Sheet & The Powerpuff Girls Notebook)

Tune-in to Cartoon Network for more details.

WANNA SING?

You could also join Cartoon Network's karaoke contest on, November 29(5-7pm) & 30(2-6pm) at Glorietta 2 Atrium, Ayala Center Makati.* For more details, please refer to event posters.

COMPETITION FINE PRINT: No purchase necessary. For a full set of the terms and conditions please write to PO Box 1807, Makati Central Post Office, 1258 Makati City, Philippines. Void where prohibited. Open to residents of Philippines only. Competitions ends on November 30, 2002.

* Activities include Cartoon Network stage games, character meet & greet, dance, karaoke jamming session plus much, much more.

Presenting sponsor:

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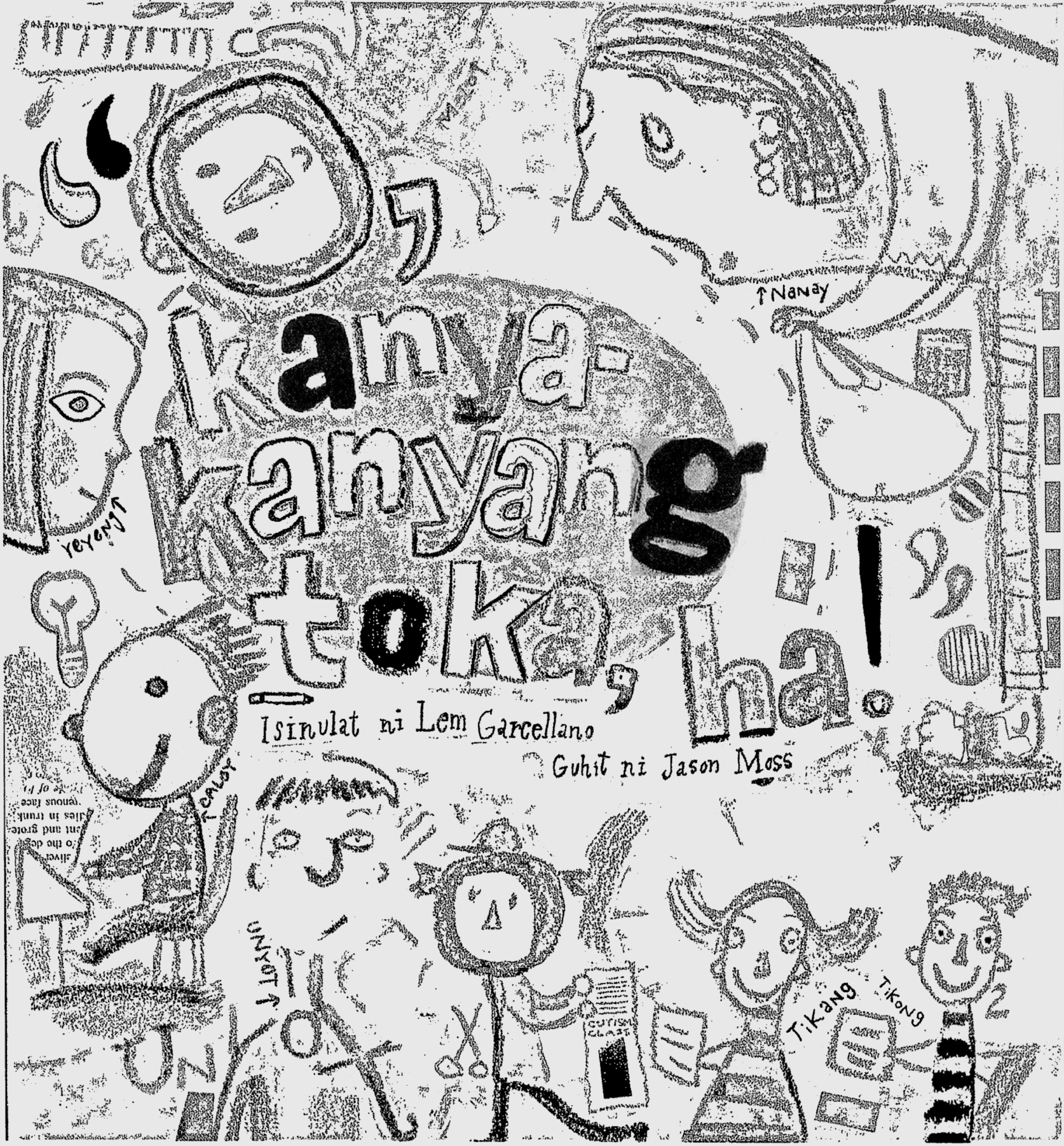
# "O, kanya-kanyang toka, ha!"

Isinulat ni Lem Garcellano

Guhit ni Jason Moss


↑ Nanay
Yeyeng ↑
↑ Caloy
↑ Jonyot
AUTISM CLASS
Tikang
Tikong

FOR or By KIDS

GABI nang makarating kami ni Nanay sa bahay namin. Sa pinto pa lang ng bahay, sinalubong kami ng sanrekwang ingay.

"Yehey! Ayan na sina nanay at si kuya! Yehey!"

Narinig ba ninyo kung sino yang mga nagsisisigaw? Sila ang mga kapatid ko: si Yeyeng na Grade 3, si Caloy na Grade 2, si Unyot (Junior siya kaya Unyot ang tawag namin) na Grade 1, at saka ang dalawa kong pinsan: sina Tikong na Grade 2 at Tikang na Grade 3.

Ang dami namin sa bahay ano? Wala na ang tatay ko—naaksidente siya noong maliit pa ako kaya si Nanay ang nanay na, tatay pa. Ako nga pala si Melo, Grade 4 ngayong pasukan.

Alam ba ninyo bakit sila nagsisisigaw? Kasi galing kami ni Nanay sa National at Megamall. Namili kami ng gamit para sa pasukan. Ay! Bukas na iyon a! Ikkkks! Ang bigat!

"Akina iyang bag na hawak mo! Ay, bigat nga, kuya!"

"Nanay! Ako na po ang magdadala niyan!"

"Ako rin! Ako rin! Tutulong din ako!"

Iyon ang gusto ko sa mga kapatid ko e. Kahit hindi mo sabihin, makita lang na nahihirapan ka, tutulong agad.

GANYAN kaming magkakapatid, nagtutulungan, lalo na sa pagkain.

"Haaayy. Pa'no na Melo, magluluto na ako. Pagkatapos na ng hapunan ko aasikasuhin ang pagko-cover ng gamit ninyo, hane?"

"Kami na lang Nanay!"

"Nakuuu, ako na. Baka sali-saliwa at tupi-tupi pa ang kober...huwag na lang..."

Si Nanay talaga, lahat gustong gawin para sa amin. Sabagay ganoon ang mga nanay. Kaya lang kaya ba ni Nanay lagyan ng plastic cover lahat iyon, e, ang dami-dami ng gamit ang pinamili namin?

Hmmmm...noong isang taon nagawa niya lahat koberan ang gamit namin...pero... maalala ko, inabot ng tatlong araw si Nanay. Naku, bukas na ang pasok namin e, umabot kaya?

"Ooooo, teka muna. Mamaya na ninyo buklatin iyang mga gamit."

"Oo nga naman. Tama si Kuya Melo...e kung magkahiwa-hiwalay?"

Alam ninyo kung hindi lang pagod si Nanay, lalong masarap ang pagkain namin ngayong hapunan pero ang kataka-taka kahit pagod na pagod siya talo pa rin ang luto sa restoran. Kaya lalo akong ginanahan sa paghuhugas ng pinggan, bukod sa roon kokoberan na namin ang mga gamit. Kaya pagkatapos naming makapagpahinga, operasyon kober na kami...pero...

"Kuya, si nanay...nasa kwarto..."

"O, e ano kung nasa kwarto?"

"Ano pa e di...zzzzzzzzz—nnggoorrrk! Tulog!"

AWANG-AWA ako sa nanay ko dahil pagod na pagod siya kaya nakatulog agad. Kasi ba naman, maghapon kaming naglalakad at namimili. Ang bigat-bigat pa ng pinamili namin. Bago pa kami makasakay ng bus, inabot kami ng isang oras. Hindi naman kami makapagtaksi sayang din ang pera. Kaya talagang laspag na ang katawan ni Nanay.

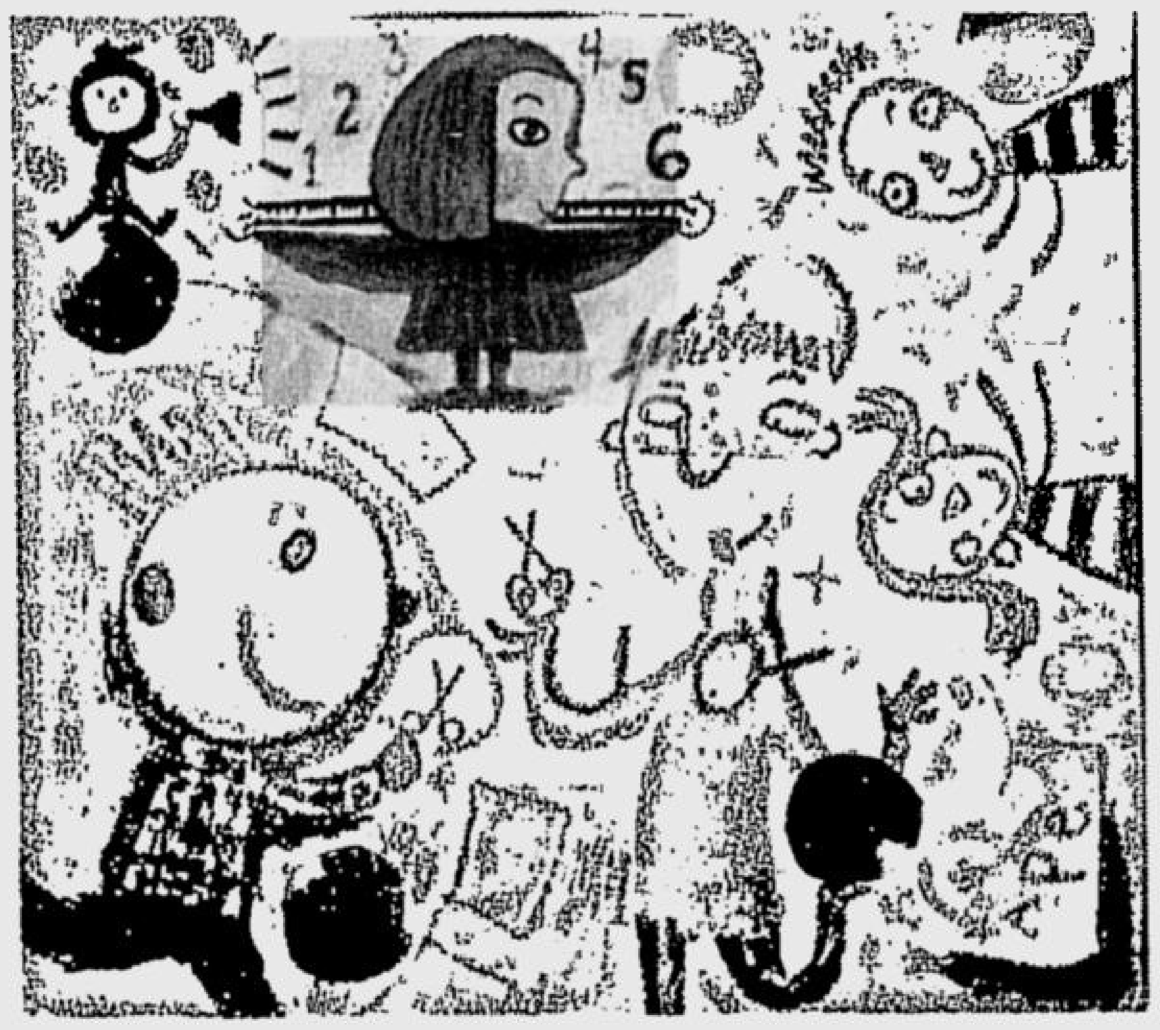
"Paano iyan, Kuya Melo, bukas na ang pasukan!"

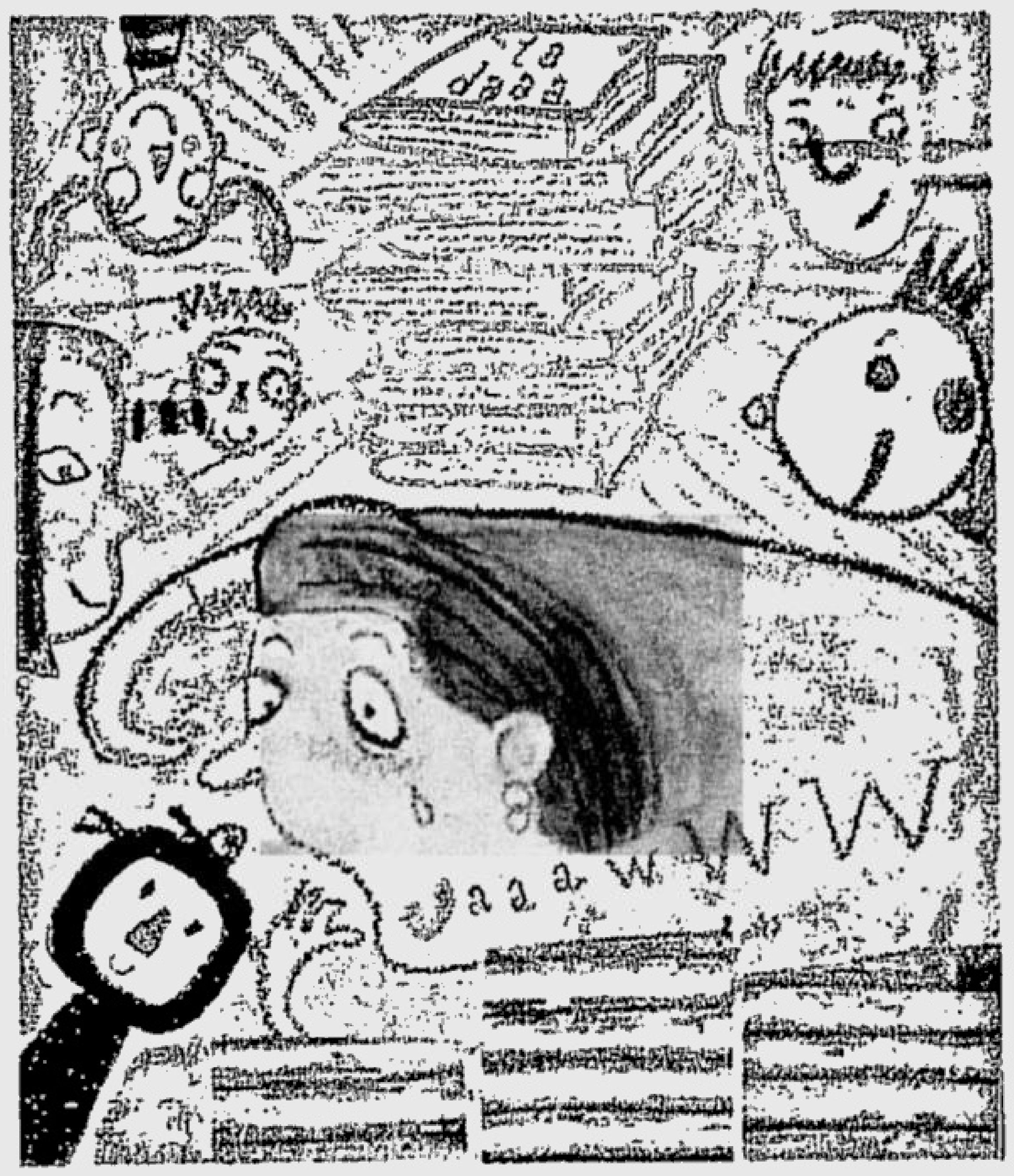
Hmmmmp. Problema ba iyon. Ano'ng ginagawa namin. Ako malaki na ako. Si Yeyeng malaki na rin. Sina Caloy, Unyot, Tikong at Tikang kaya na rin nila. Katunayan nga kami-kami ang gumagawa ng mga tungkulin dito sa bahay e.

Kanya-kanyang toka kami: kami ni Yeyeng naghuhugas ng pinagkainan at kung minsan nagluluto, sina Caloy, Unyot, Tikong at Tikang, nagwawalis ng bahay, nagpupunas ng mesa, nag-iipon ng tubig, tumutulong sa amin ni Yeyeng. Alam na ba ninyo ang ibig kong sabihin? Kung hindi pwede si Nanay, e di, kami ang magkokober ng gamit namin. Kaya namin iyon.

"O kanya-kanyang toka, toka tayo ha?" Si Yeyeng ang magsusukat ng papel. Unyot, Caloy, kayo ang maggugupit. Tikang, Tikong, kayo naman ang magdidikit. Maliwanag?"

"Maliwanag, Bos Melo...este Kuya Melo pala!"





*"Iyon ang gusto ko sa mga kapatid ko e. Kahit hindi mo sabihin, makita lang na nahihirapan ka, tutulong agad."*

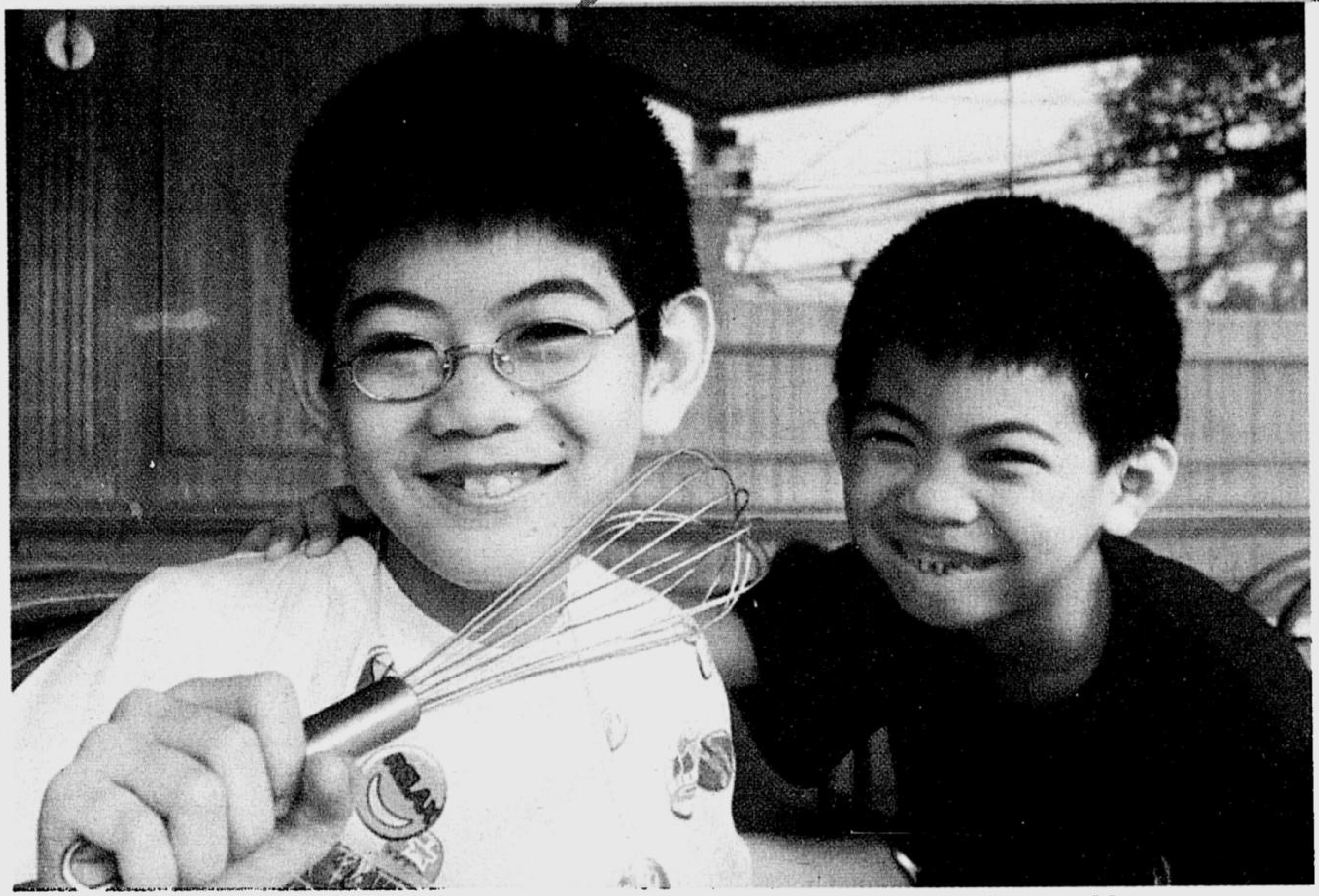
KINABUKASAN, bumaligwas sa pagbangon si Nanay! Nagtatakbo siya sa sala, hinahanap ang mga gamit namin! Nagtawanan kaming lahat sa nangyayari kay Nanay. Para siyang turumpo na umiikot. Tapos nang makita niya na nakasukbit na sa balikat namin ang mga bag at backpack namin, lalo siyang nagtaka. Ginawa namin, isa-isang ipinakita ang aming mga gamit: may kober na.

"Hay salamat...ang galing ninyo! Ang kinis ng pagkaka-kober! Salamat mga anak!"

Niyakap kami nang mahigpit ni Nanay...pero nagtataka ako...para iyon lang inakap na kami? Siguro kung mas mabuti pa ang gagawin namin baka hindi lang yakap ang ibigay sa amin ni Nanay...baka halik pa.

*Si **Lem** ay ang producer, creative director, director at writer ng programang "Eskwela ng Bayan," mapapanood sa National Broadcasting Network tuwing alas-diyes ng umaga.*

*Si **Jason** ay isang full-time painter at book illustrator. Mabibili ang kanyang mga aklat sa mga bookstores. Maaari siyang sulatan sa jasonmoss@hotmail.com.*



EJI shows off his egg beater while his younger brother Justin, 7, joins his 5 minutes of fame.

EDWIN BACASMAS

# Wok with Eji

*Ten-year-old Eji will be a famous chef someday, and that's the plan!*

**By Margaux Ortiz**

A LOT of well-known chefs in the world are men. And 10-year-old Benjamin Co knows early on his life that he is destined to follow in their footsteps.

"I'm planning to attend cooking school someday," says the fourth grader from La Salle Greenhills. "I've been bustling around in the kitchen for as long as I can remember."

### Young Cook

As soon as Eji could walk, his mom Charina would take him with her to the market to shop. Then his mom would put him on a stool in the kitchen when they got home and let him watch while she cooked. She would even give Eji the spatula once in a while and let him mix the ingredients for their next meal.

Eji was soon experimenting with more complicated stuff like cheesecakes and chocolate cakes. Although he professes to be more of a baking guy than a cooking one, he dreams of mastering all kinds of recipes someday.

### Generation Thing

Mom Charina says that Eji learned how to cook at an early age because somehow, it was expected of the family members to be "experts in the kitchen."

"It's a generation thing," relates Eji's mom. "My grandmother was a cook and my mom was a cook. It's really great that Eji has the same passion for food."

The 10-year-old's family is not only proud of his talent but also of the kid's thoughtfulness as well. Eji cooks breakfast for them on non-school days and even surprises them every once in a while with a newly learned recipe.

"He even baked a cake for his *yaya* on her birthday," his mom proudly smiles.

Eji is determined to finally realizing his dream of being an internationally renowned chef. Who knows, he might even have his own cooking show, too.

## R U 'RRIFIC?

**'Rrific kids are smart**
**'Rrific kids are fun**
**Some aren't in the honors list**
**But get their homework done**

**Somehow the world's**
**a better place**
**I know this much is true**
**Hey 'Rrific kid!**
**We know you're there**
**We love you 'cause you're you!**

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

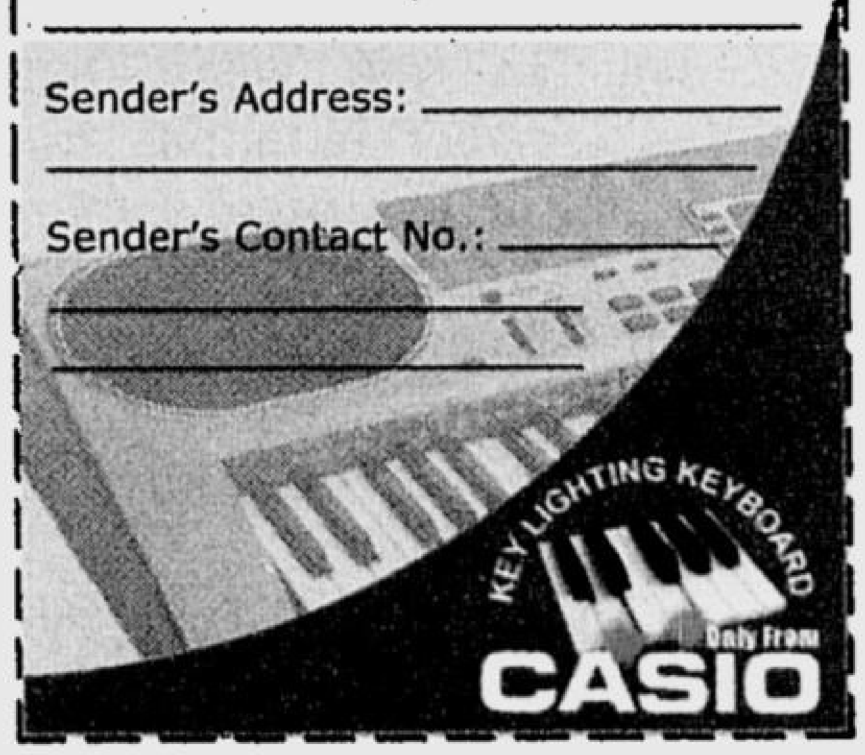
**Junior Inquirer**
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

**FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!**

## Kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: ______________________
______________________
______________________
Age: ______________________
I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
______________________
______________________
______________________
______________________
______________________
______________________
She/he lives at______________________
______________________
______________________
and studies at ______________________
______________________
Her/his contact number is:
______________________
Sender's Name: ______________________
______________________
Sender's Age & School: ______________________
______________________
Sender's Address: ______________________
______________________
Sender's Contact No.: ______________________
______________________
______________________



# A Strong Mama!

*Mothers come in different shapes and sizes. Alice Domingo is one who runs as fast as her kids, and maybe even faster!*

**By Eline Santos**

When Elicia Domingo—also called *Ate* Alice—joins adventure races or marathons, she can give people half her age a run for their money.

Alice has brought home about a dozen medals from the marathons, duathlons and triathlons she has joined since 1992.

The 46-year-old mother of three began her love affair with marathons thanks to her hubby, Berjavier.

"My husband is an athlete," says Alice. And he's also very supportive. With the salary he earns as a security guard, he even bought Alice a new bike to race on.

"As long as I bring home the medals," Alice tells us with a twinkle in her eye, "it's okay with him."

Her most recent conquest was the Makiling Mountain Quest. Together with teammates Paul de Vera and Vladimir Hernandez, Alice ran, biked, swam and hiked all over Makiling to take third place in the 6-hour course.

Alice is already preparing for the Samsung AXN Challenge and the Ironman Triathlon in November.

"As long as I am able, I will keep racing. It feels really good."

**TRIATHLETE Alice Domingo and her trusty racer.**

JOHNNY VILLENA

**Do you know a grown-up who**

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

**A.K.A. COOL**

*Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen,* ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ______________.
He/She is ________ years old and
is my _______________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a__________
_ ____________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at ____
____________________.
By the way, I'm ____________
____________________.
I'm__________years old.
My address is____________
____________________.
You may call me at__________
____________________.

# My Ode to HEKASI

**By Tawny Anne B. Nadal**
**Illustration by Marcus Nada**

I have never encountered a subject so hard
It will be the lowest in my report card.
HEKASI is always confusing in my mind
And in my class I am always behind.

HEKASI is always giving me a headache
It is like a nightmare while you are awake.
HEKASI is a subject I might take again in summer
With all that memorization, it's so hard to remember.

At the end of the term,
I might get a white slip.
What am I supposed to do?
Please give me a tip.

Here is a fact which is known by none
That I really find HEKASI so much fun.
It is so challenging and thought-provoking.
It's so exciting, and yet frightening.

Then after three months,
There's another quarter test
And I guess I will have
To try my very best.

Who knows, in this subject,
I might even pass
And hopefully I will not have
To take summer class.

*__Tawny__ is a Grade 4 student at Marymount School in Parañaque.*
*__Marcus__ is an illustrator and graphic designer. He is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang InK). Visit his website at www.brainchildesignlab.com.*

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?Thinkathon?

# LET'S GET SCIENTIFIC

1. In Albert Einstein's famous equation $E=mc^2$, what does the "c" stand for?
   A. Speed of light
   B. Color of matter
   C. Volume of mass

2. What actually is dry ice?
   X. Frozen heated water
   Y. Frozen carbon dioxide
   Z. Frozen helium

3. What would happen if you soaked a raw egg in vinegar for 24 hours?
   A. The yolk would turn green
   B. The egg would dissolve completely
   C. The shell would turn rubbery

4. Which of the following body parts is the most sensitive to touch?
   X. Lips
   Y. Back
   Z. Armpit

5. Penicillin is derived from a type of:
   A. Mold
   B. Seaweed
   C. Petroleum

6. The echidna and the platypus are the only mammals that:
   X. Lay eggs
   Y. Breathe underwater
   Z. Have no backbone

7. The tides are caused mostly by the:
   A. Gravitational pull of the Sun
   B. Tilt of the Earth's axis
   C. Gravitational pull of the Moon

8. If graphite is submitted to pressures of about 1 million pounds and temperatures around 3,000 degrees Celsius, you would get:
   X. Crude oil
   Y. Diamonds
   Z. Magma

9. Which of the following color of stars is the hottest?
   A. White
   B. Red
   C. Yellow

10. Humans cannot perceive color:
    X. Outer space
    Y. Underwater
    Z. In bright moonlight

11. Ancient Romans used wood ashes and animal fat to make what?
    A. Fuel
    B. Cigars
    C. Soap

12. During the time of the dinosaurs, how many continents were there on Earth?:
    X. 1
    Y. 3
    Z. 7

**Answers:**

1. A
2. Y
3. C
4. X
5. A
6. X
7. C
8. Y
9. A
10. Z
11. C
12. X

**Ratings:**

superbrain!
**11-12**

excellent!
**8-10**

good!
**5-7**

# THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

purple
toenail
ham
rotten
eyeball
wax

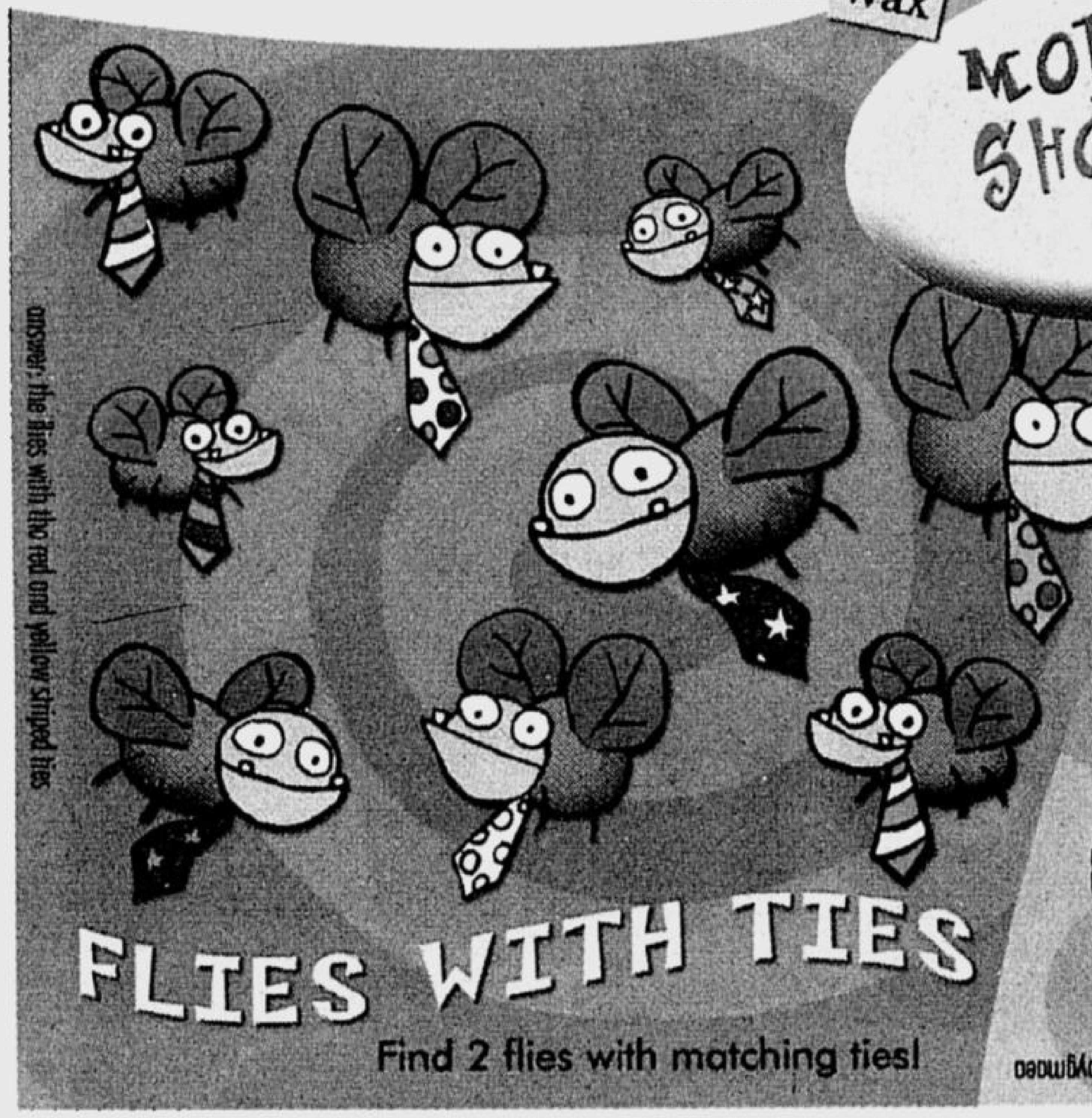
What would a monster grocery list contain? Pick one word from each row and put them together for some really monstrous treats!

slimy | rotten | purple | squashed | gooey

eyeball | fish | toenail | duck | shoe | button

toothpaste | wax | ketchup | oil | ham | slime | cheese

## MONSTER SHOPPING LIST



## FLIES WITH TIES

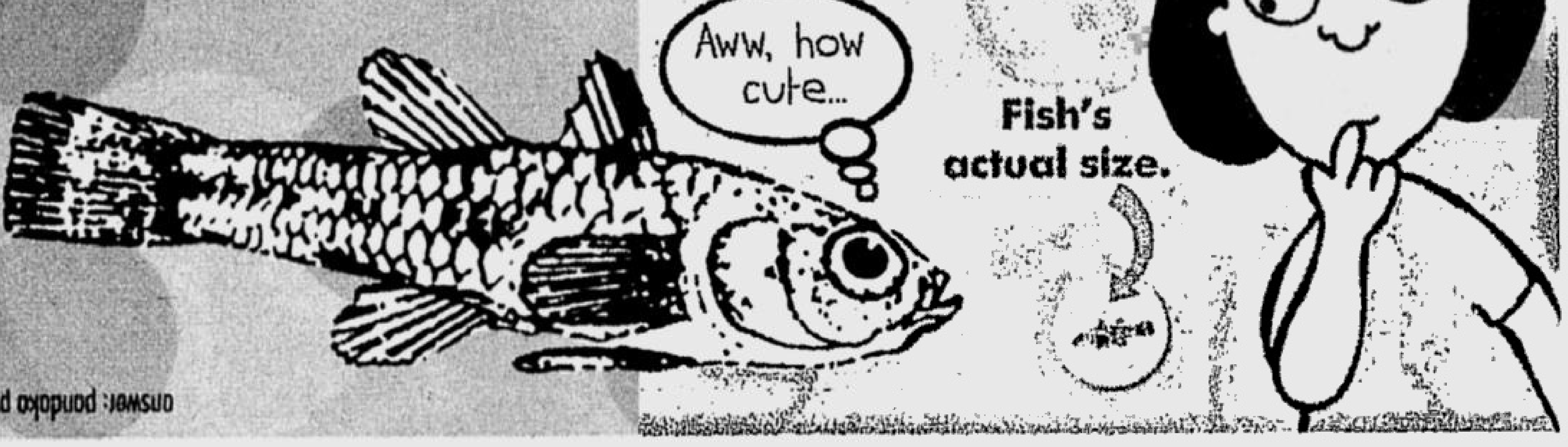
Find 2 flies with matching ties!

answer: the flies with the red and yellow striped ties

## IT'S THE SMALLEST FISH IN THE WORLD

...and it lives in lakes right here in the Philippines! It is only 7 to 11 millimeters long. Find out what it's called by removing the letters T,H,O and S from the words below!

HOPASTNOSDATHOKASH
TOPHOSYHOGSMATSEATO


Aww, how cute...

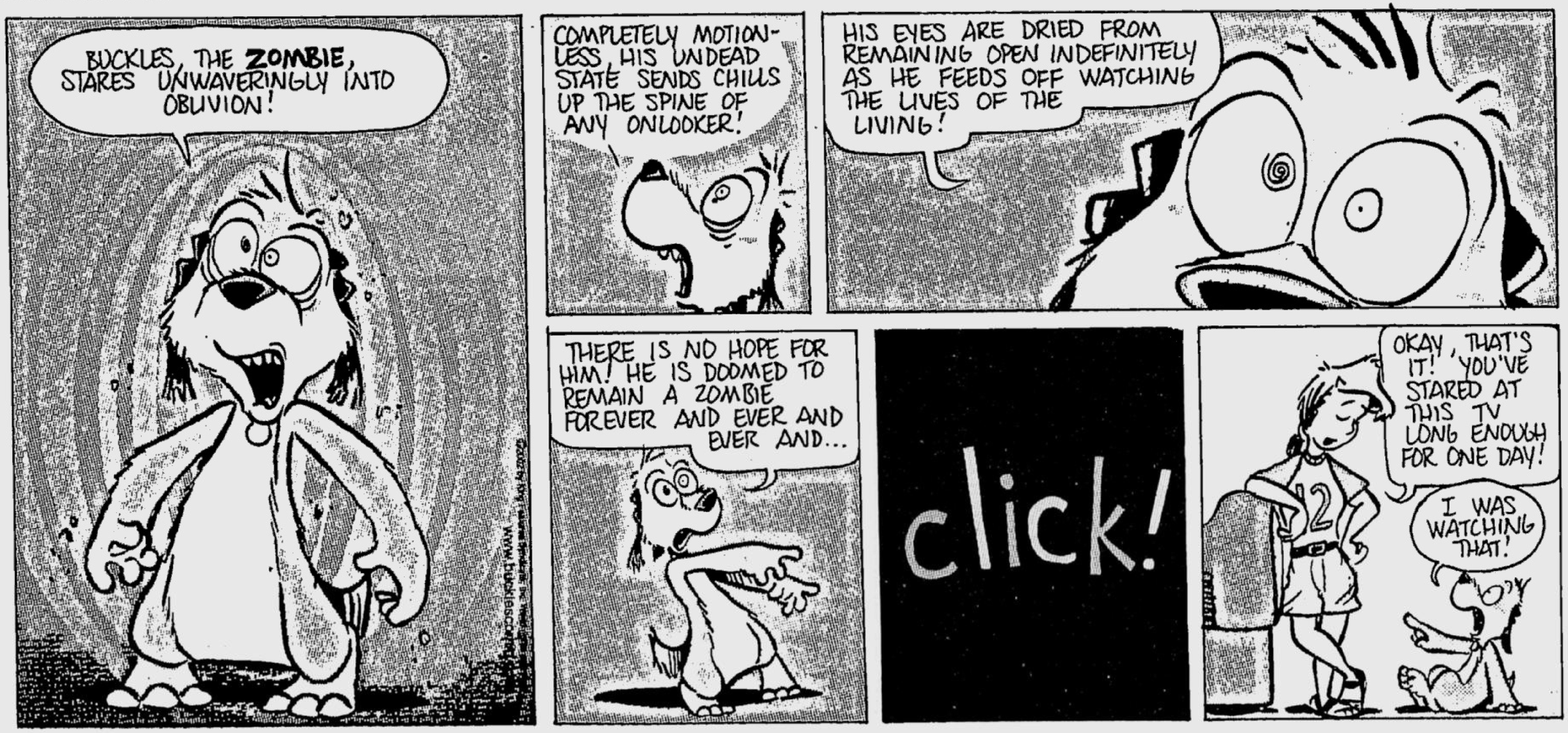
Fish's actual size.

answer: pandaka pygmaea

---

## BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


BUCKLES, THE ZOMBIE, STARES UNWAVERINGLY INTO OBLIVION!
COMPLETELY MOTIONLESS, HIS UNDEAD STATE SENDS CHILLS UP THE SPINE OF ANY ONLOOKER!
HIS EYES ARE DRIED FROM REMAINING OPEN INDEFINITELY AS HE FEEDS OFF WATCHING THE LIVES OF THE LIVING!
THERE IS NO HOPE FOR HIM! HE IS DOOMED TO REMAIN A ZOMBIE FOREVER AND EVER AND EVER AND...
click!
OKAY, THAT'S IT! YOU'VE STARED AT THIS TV LONG ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY!
I WAS WATCHING THAT!
12
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# THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

purple
toenail
ham
rotten
eyeball
wax

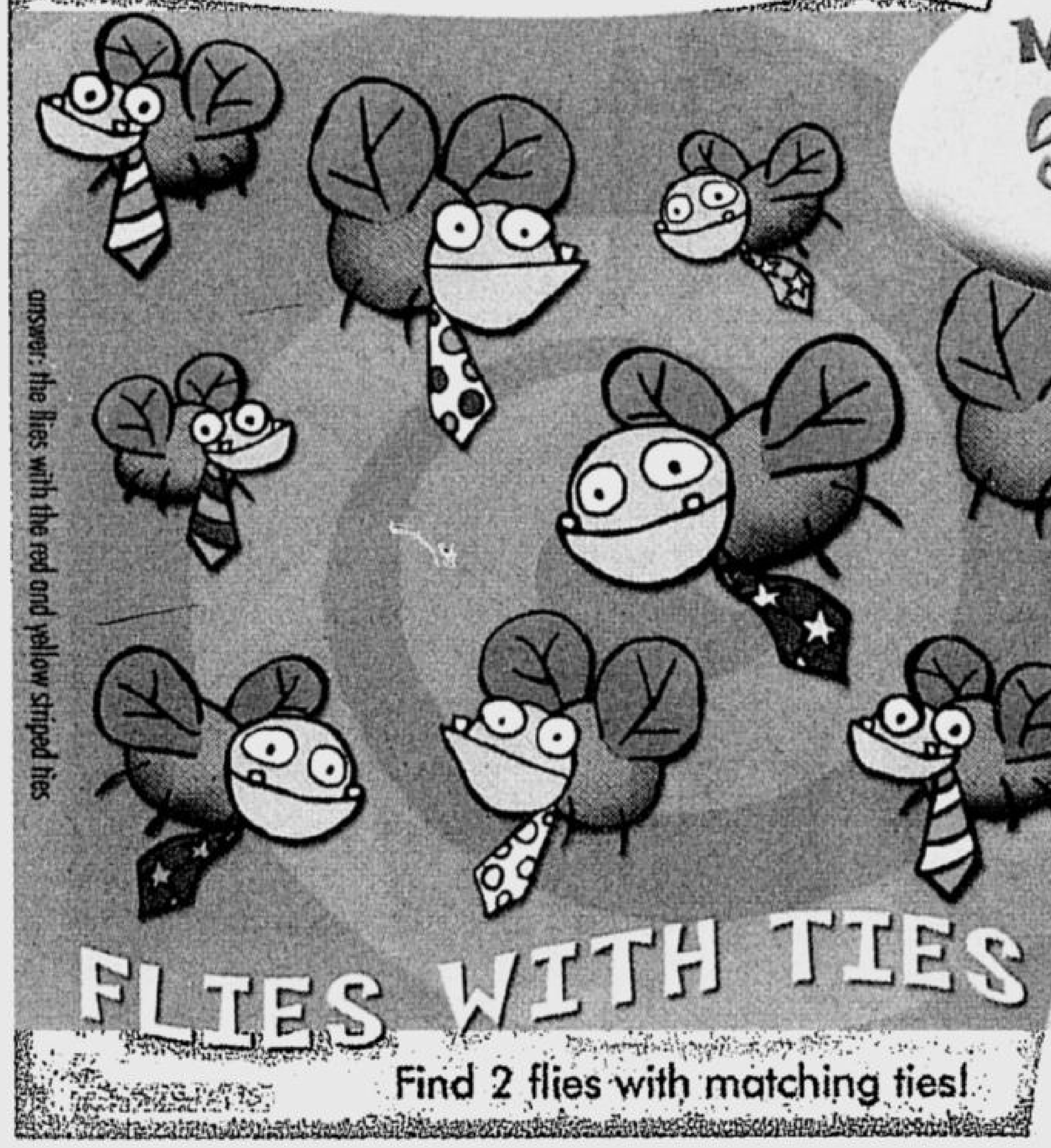
What would a monster's grocery list probably look like? [illegible] monstrous [illegible]

## MONSTER SHOPPING LIST

slimy | rotten | purple | squashed | gooey

eyeball | fish | toenail | duck | shoe | button

toothpaste | wax | ketchup | oil | ham | slime | cheese



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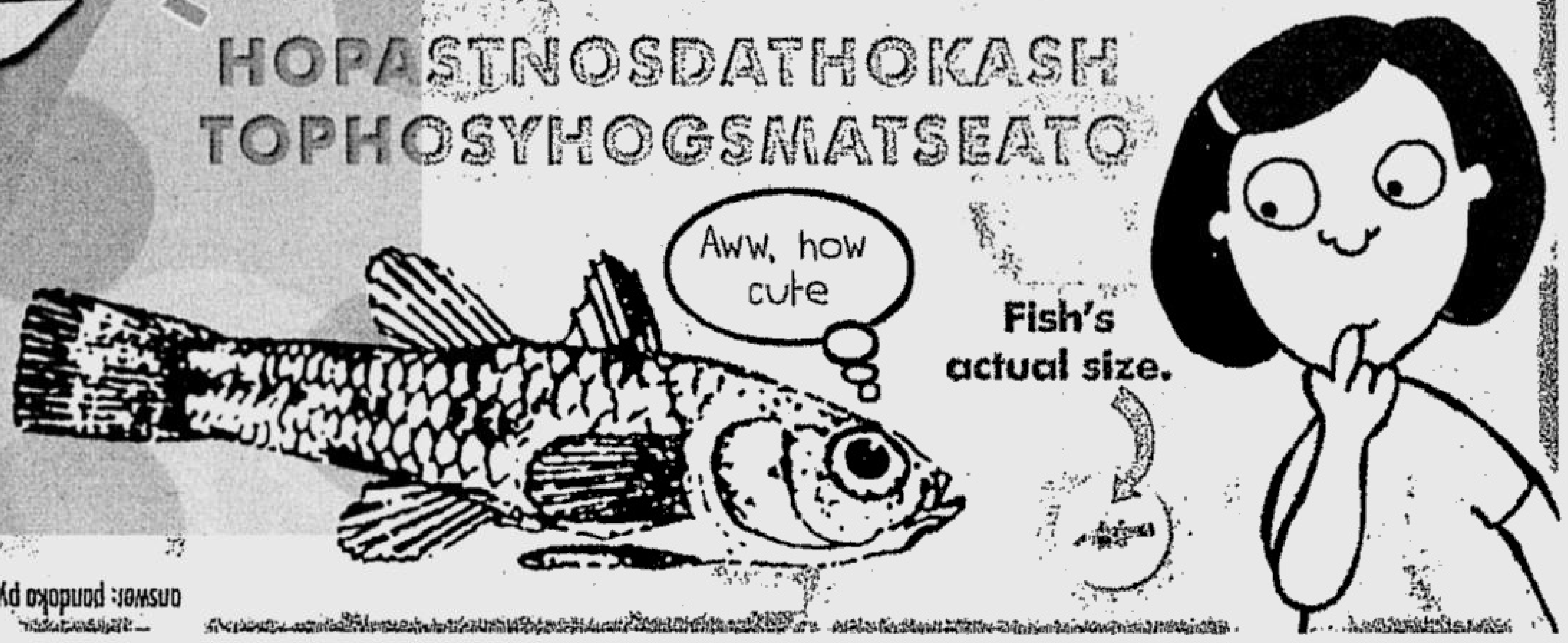
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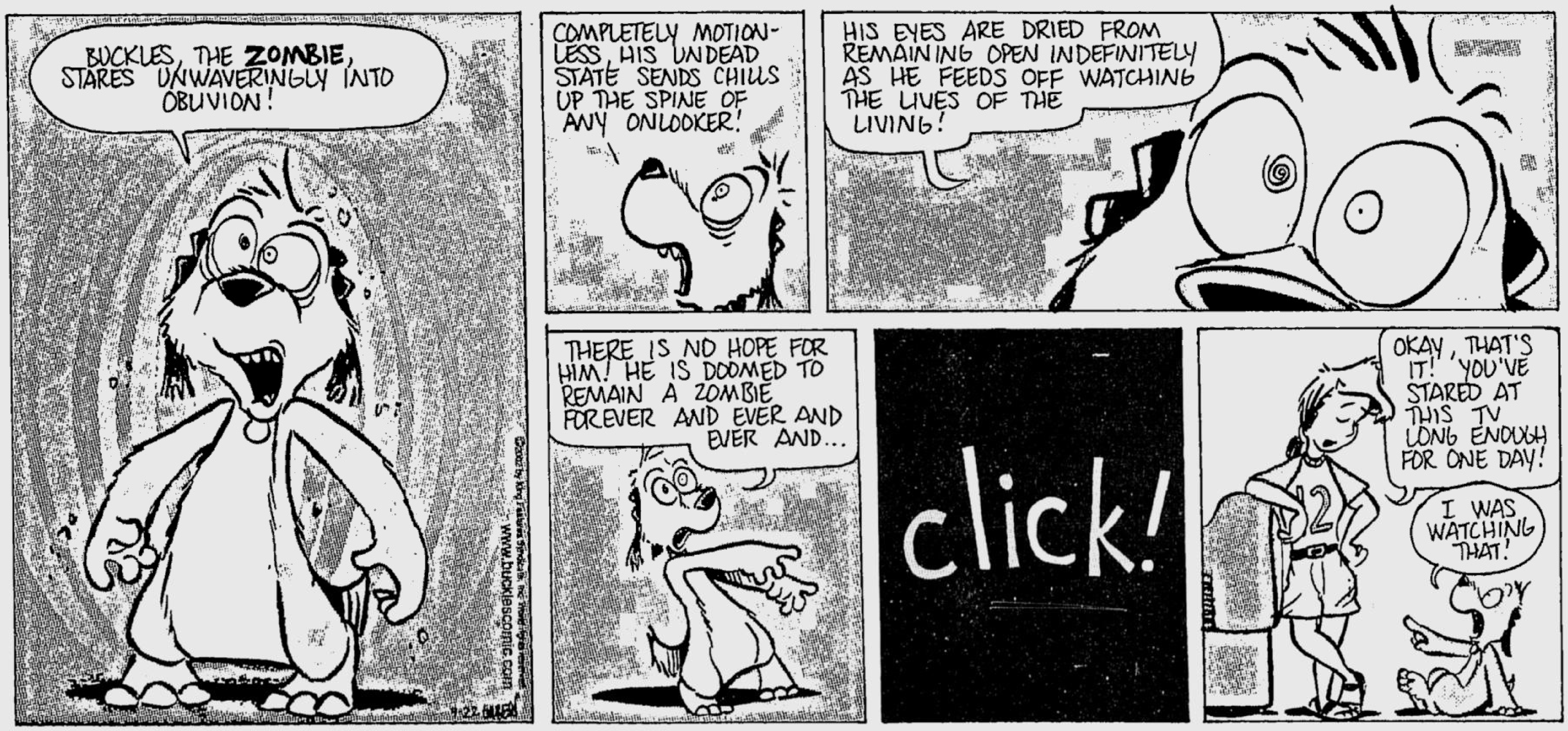
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click!
OKAY, THAT'S IT! YOU'VE STARED AT THIS TV LONG ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY!
I WAS WATCHING THAT!
12

## Hi-Ho Hoofprints, away!

(from page 5)

Kenneth Yu, an all-around member of the staff, shares the same sentiment. "They help us with whatever is needed. They're very involved."

But even with the best guidance, good staff members are essential as well.

"I guess the writers have a good dynamic and they go well together," says Kenneth. "All of the articles, when you put them together, it's like you have a good book. You have a good outcome."

Kenneth continues, "If you look at it you can tell this came from various people, various opinions but all of them are good opinions. And they know how to write, they know how to express themselves. With that you can see the perspectives of a lot of people… it's as if you can also glimpse the mind of the school."

"Meetings are spent thinking about what articles to write," relates Aaron. "Ideas come from the writers. Everyone has a voice in the meeting so it's not up to me… everyone can suggest anything."

And that folks is the secret to Hoofprints galloping away with the CMMA for the second time in a row. Congratulations!

---

## My Mom

**By Roma Mikaela M. Kaimo**
**Illustration by Stephanie Bravo**

I love my mom.
She's the best!
I'll do one thing,
She'll do the rest.
Cooking and cleaning,
She's everywhere.
She always helps me
When I'm in despair.
Nobody loves me
Just like my mom.
She'll always do.
Whatever may come.

*Roma, 9, studies at Infant Jesus Academy, Marikina City*

***Steph*** *is JI's favorite artist.*

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